VANCOUVER metro®
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

HOBBIT CAST PICKS ITS PRECIOUSES

ACTORS REVEAL WHAT PROPS THEY TOOK FROM THE SET OF PETER JACKSON'S TRILOGY, FROM POINTY EARS TO SOCKS PAGE 23

After decades of debate, Site C dam goes ahead

Critics scorn the 'most expensive mistake in B.C.'s history' PAGE 3

More than 100 children slain at Pakistan school

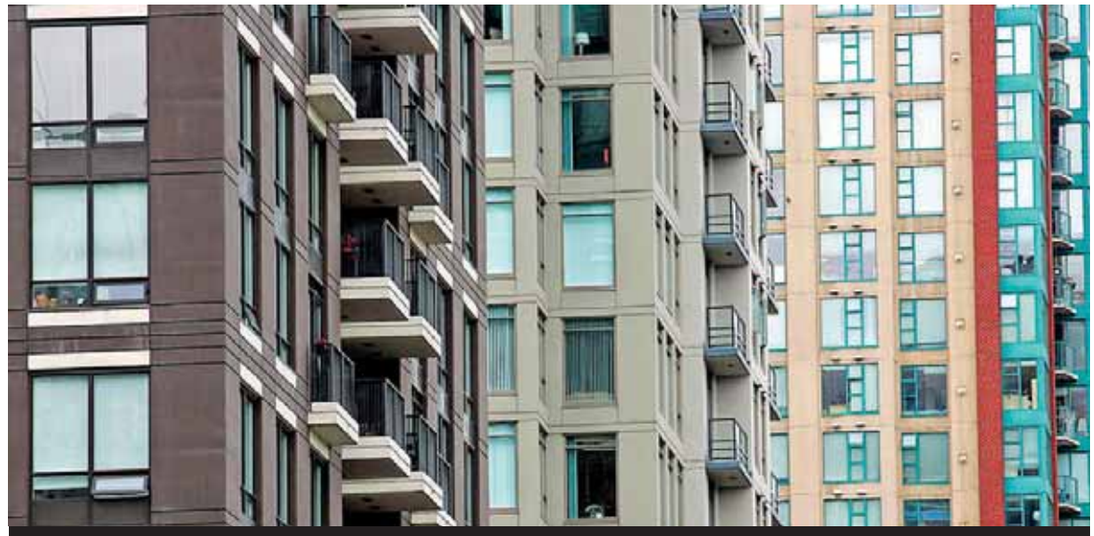
Taliban gunmen also leave more than 100 kids wounded PAGE 16

FIND YOUR PASSION. FIND YOUR PURPOSE.
SPROTT SHAW COLLEGE SINCE 1903
OVER 100 CAREER FOCUSED PROGRAMS @ SPROTTSHAW.COM

Rental crisis worse than feared: MLA

Vancouver vacancy. Some areas have rates far past the 'danger' line, getting worse

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca



Condo towers in Yaletown. A new report by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation says Vancouver has a rental vacancy of 0.5 per cent. Anything below three per cent is considered low. METRO FILE

The rental crisis in Vancouver is even worse than many think, says a local MLA.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2014 rental report, released Tuesday, says parts of Vancouver — specifically the West End and Downtown — have vacancy rates as low as 0.3 per cent, while the city as a whole has a rental vacancy rate of just 0.5 per cent.

In comparison, the vacancy rate for the West End and Downtown in 2013 was 0.9 per cent, and the citywide rate was 1.0 per cent.

"That's even worse than I imagined," said David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey.

Both Eby and fellow NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert, representing Vancouver-West End, say their ridings have been hit hard by the shortage of rental stock.

It's a situation that has not only frustrated prospective renters but also put long-term tenants at risk.

"We've seen that in the West End, where landlords have pushed longer-term tenants out, knowing there are other renters out there hungry to take the suite at whatever price possible," said Chandra Herbert.

The shrinking rates in 2014 have pushed the average rent of a two-bedroom apartment in the West End or Downtown up to $1,849 per month (compared to $1,794 last year) and $1,571 citywide (compared to $1,541 in 2013).

Tom Durning, advocate at the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, said the city has long had vacancy rates below the "danger" line of three per cent.

"There's all this competition for rental housing (from rents) and nothing is being built," said Durning. "Many landlords have the upper hand. It's not a balanced housing situation in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland."

Those that can secure rental housing increasingly struggle to make ends meet, according to a report released last month from the B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association.

It reported nearly half of renters in the region spend more than the recommended 30 per cent of their gross income on rent. A quarter of renters spend more than half their income on rent.

In an attempt to alleviate demand, Mayor Gregor Robertson has promised to build 1,000 rental units per year for the next four years.

On Tuesday, city council approved a series of citizen advisory committees, including a Renters Advisory Committee, which the city says will give renters a "direct voice at city hall."

Eby has also warned of increased pressure from the provincial government.

Earlier this month, Housing Minister Rich Coleman said his government is considering a proposal to relax rent-control rules, as current limits and rising operational costs "discourage" growth in rental supply.

However, Eby argues all the reform would do is make rents more unaffordable for vulnerable tenants, such as seniors on fixed incomes.

WITH FILES FROM EMILY JACKSON AND STEFANIA SECCIA

RBC Royal Bank
DON'T #GIFTMISS. GIFT THIS.
RBC® Visa‡ Gift Cards
• No fees after purchase*
• Accepted worldwide¹
• Funds don't expire
A gift they'll actually use.
Learn more at rbc.com/visagiftcard or any RBC Royal Bank® branch.
® / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ‡All other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s). * A $3.95 fee applies at the time of card purchase. ¹ RBC Visa Prepaid Cards may be used to make purchases anywhere in the world where Visa cards are accepted.

Keep your family entertained from only $50 per month.

Get a **full year** from
$50/mo.*
when you sign up for 3 years.

Regular price currently $92/month.

Sign up for Optik TV™ and Internet for 3 years and enjoy:

- FREE Whole Home PVR rental† to store 198 hours of HD
- GET the most Wi-Fi® coverage throughout your home‡
- CONVENIENT two-hour arrival window for installation, including weekends

Call **310-MYTV (6988)**,
go to **telus.com/optik** or visit your **TELUS store**.

TELUS
the future is friendly®

TELUS STORES

Abbotsford
Highstreet Shopping Centre
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2140 Sumas Way
32915 South Fraser Way

Aldergrove
26310 Fraser Hwy.

Burnaby
Brentwood Town Centre
Crystal Mall
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
3855 Henning Dr.
4501 North Rd.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
Westwood Mall
1071 Austin Ave.

Delta
Scottsdale Centre
1517 56th St.
4841 Delta St.
4912 62nd St.

Langley
Willowbrook Mall
8700 200th St.
19638 Fraser Hwy.
20159 88th Ave.
20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
Haney Place Mall
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
Mission Smartcentre
32670 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
Lynn Valley Centre
1295 Marine Dr.
1801 Lonsdale Ave.

Pitt Meadows
19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Port Coquitlam
2020 Oxford Connector

Richmond
Lansdowne Centre
Richmond Centre
11686 Steveston Hwy.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Cloverdale Crossing
Grandview Corners
Guildford Town Centre
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
3189 King George Blvd.
7380 King George Blvd.
13734 104th Ave.

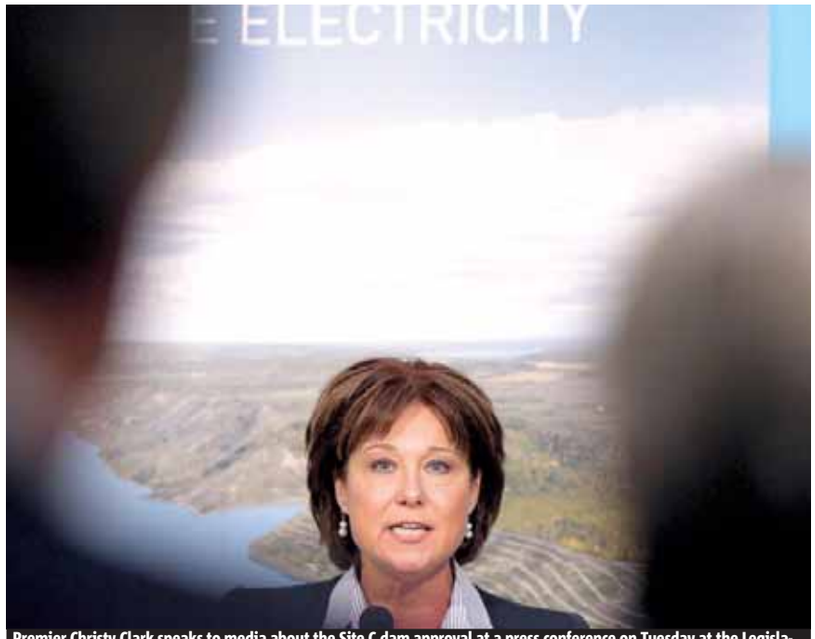
Vancouver
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
220 East 1st Ave.
551 Robson St.
808 Davie St.
991 Denman St.
1095 West Pender St.
1143 Robson St.
1855 Burrard St.
2338 Cambie St.
2372 West 4th Ave.
2706 Granville St.
2748 Rupert St.
3121 West Broadway

West Vancouver
Park Royal South

*Offer available until December 31, 2014, to residential customers who have not subscribed to Optik TV or Internet in the past 90 days. Offer not available in all areas. Call now for eligibility. Offer includes Optik TV Essentials and Internet 25. Regular prices apply at the end of the promotional period. TELUS reserves the right to modify channel lineups and packaging, and regular pricing without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer not available with TELUS Internet 6. HDTV-input-equipped television required to watch HD. Minimum system requirements apply. Final eligibility for the services will be determined by a TELUS representative. †Offer available with a 3 year service agreement; current rental rates apply thereafter. A cancellation fee applies to the early termination of a service agreement and will be $10 multiplied by the number of months remaining in the term. TELUS reserves the right to substitute an equivalent or better product without notice. Rental equipment must be returned in good condition upon cancellation of service, otherwise the replacement cost will be charged to the account. PVR capabilities subject to and limited by applicable laws. Speed and signal strength depends on location, usage within the home network, Internet traffic, applicable network management and server configurations. ‡ Based on a medium sized structure using standard building materials. Wi-Fi signal reception may vary based on the number of active Wi-Fi devices and available Wi-Fi signals. Wi-Fi Plus may be required for full coverage, charged separately TELUS, the TELUS logo, Optik, Optik TV, telus.com and the future is friendly are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. Wi-Fi is a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance. © 2014 TELUS.

Province approves construction of contentious $8.8B Site C dam

Peace River. Decision slammed as 'ill-advised and incredibly stupid'



Premier Christy Clark speaks to media about the Site C dam approval at a press conference on Tuesday at the Legislative Library in Victoria, B.C. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The British Columbia government has approved its most expensive mega-project with the construction of an $8.8-billion dam on the Peace River that Premier Christy Clark says marks a historic milestone that will be felt for a century.

The controversial Site C dam project was immediately denounced by First Nations and environmental groups as "incredibly stupid," and a project "that will go down as the most expensive mistake in B.C.'s history."

The dam would be the third on the Peace River in northeastern B.C., flooding an 83-kilometre stretch of valley near Fort St. John. The power project has been part of B.C.'s long-range energy options since 1958.

"In the life of any province there are moments where each of us has an opportunity, a responsibility, to make big decisions, ones that are going to matter," Clark said a news conference on Tuesday. "In this case for a century, and today is the day."

Her government arrived at the decision after careful analysis, Clark said.

"It was not an easy decision to come to. In order for our economy to grow, we need to ensure there is power."

The dam will bring clean, reliable and affordable power to the province, she added.

While the province is the leader in North America in energy conservation, Clark said that doesn't eliminate the need for new energy.

Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett said the decision to go ahead with the project is what's best for ratepayers. Construction is set to start in the summer of 2015 and the dam is expected to be complete and in operation in 2024, he said.

The projected cost has increased from $7.9 billion to $8.75 billion. A delayed start, tax changes and an added contingency fund of $440 million to cover unforeseen expenses over the eight-year construction period account for the increased estimate, Bennett said.

Last spring Bennett said the $7.9 billion estimate was solid, and estimates from BC Hydro, the Crown corporation building the project, came with an adequate buffer to cover rising costs.

Opposition New Democrat Leader John Horgan seized upon the rising estimates and said costs could go even higher.

"This is a $9-billion gamble from a premier who we can't take at her word," said Horgan, who called for a genuine, independent review of the project by the BC Utilities Commission. "I'm not convinced we've seen the final number on this."

The dam's environmental impact statement forecasts flooding of more than 5,550 hectares of land, of which at least 3,800 hectares are agricultural land. The project will also flood First Nations heritage sites and force up to 20 families, many life-long ranchers, to move.

The flooding of some Treaty 8 First Nations' territory is something Chief Bob Chamberlin, the vice-president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, said crystallizes the disregard for aboriginal and treaty rights in B.C.

The Union's president, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, said in a news release that BC Hydro has failed to make its case in terms of future energy demands.

"This is an ill-advised and incredibly stupid decision the province has made regarding the Site C Project," he said.

Joy Foy of the Wilderness Committee said the B.C. government's decision to build the dam "will go down as the most expensive mistake in B.C.'s history."

Bennett said earlier that he doesn't expect First Nations to publicly endorse Site C, but he was hopeful benefit agreements could be negotiated. He said First Nations companies and people could profit greatly from the project through construction contracts and jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In detail

- Some First Nations in northeast B.C. issued the government an ultimatum to decide between the liquefied natural gas industry or Site C, as the proposed dam is located in the hear of the province's natural gas fields.
- A report by the joint review panel appointed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Authority found the dam would cause significant adverse effects on the environment and wildlife, aboriginals, farmers and other users of the Peace River valley.
- The 471-page joint review panel report also said the benefits are clear and the alternatives few.

"The need for highly skilled, adaptable, energetic Education Assistants, who are passionate about helping students succeed continues to grow." - Sean Beagles, Calgary Board of Education

There is an urgent demand for
TEACHER'S ASSISTANTS

- Wages range from $23.02 - $30.18/hour
- **LEARN ONLINE** – Guided online learning, instructor-led, in a highly supported environment
- Become a Teacher's Assistant in just 40 weeks

"Students who attend Stenberg College and do their practicum placement through Rocky View Schools will be guaranteed an interview at the end of their placement." – Shannon Tonelli, Recruiter, Rocky View Schools

in collaboration with Calgary Board of Education

STENBERG COLLEGE
1-855-227-3460 • www.stenbergcollege.com

in collaboration with ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

You are invited to an
INFORMATION SESSION
Wednesday, Dec. 3rd
7 pm – 9 pm
Hyatt Regency Calgary
700 Centre Street SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5P6
All attendees will receive $1000 bursary*
Please RSVP to calgary@stenbergcollege.com
or Toll Free: 1-855-227-3460
*cannot be combined with any other offer

Ai Weiwei public art hitting Vancouver

A public art installation entitled "F Grass" by Ai Weiwei will be on display at Vancouver's Harbour Green Park for one year. CONTRIBUTED

F Grass. Subversive Chinese activist's piece will be on display at Harbour Green Park for a year for city biennale

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

A spiky — and cheeky — piece of public art by one of the most powerful artists and human rights activists in the world will be unveiled in Vancouver on Wednesday.

Internationally renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei's installation entitled "F Grass" will be revealed at Harbour Green Park at Cordova and Bute, where it will be on display for one year as part of the Vancouver Biennale.

The piece is made of metal ground spikes that, when seen from above, make the shape of an F.

In China, the word "grass" has become a tongue-in-cheek substitution for the F-word due to its similar pronunciation. It's become a way to outsmart the censors that monitor the Internet.

Ai Weiwei has consistently run afoul of the Chinese government for his activism and art. He had a particularly scathing blog on social network Sina Weibo that was shut down by the government in 2009.

He was arrested by the government when trying to leave the country in 2011. He is no longer under arrest, but is not allowed to leave the country.

Biennale organizers describe his piece as a commentary that people will express themselves, no matter how absurd the government control.

"The tone of defiance is clear," organizers state. "Ai Weiwei getting his message out to the world despite his continued physical detainment in a country that seems so eager to shut him up."

HUDSON'S BAY

FOSSIL
A watch with rose gold accents on the dial is sure to secure a Christmas morning smile.
$135 TO $215
CANADA'S #1 SELLER OF WATCHES
SHOP THEBAY.COM

Vancouver Island. Orca died of infection: Officials

Officials believe that a killer whale found dead off Vancouver Island earlier this month died of a bacterial infection caused by a failed pregnancy.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada said preliminary necropsy results show the infection likely originated with the nearly full-term female calf before spreading to its mother.

Pacific marine mammal co-ordinator Paul Cottrell says the calf died at least several days before the mother.

He says it is too early to say whether the orca known as J-32 suffered from long-term starvation, as she likely went into distress after her calf died and didn't feed for days.

Ken Balcomb, with the Center for Whale Researchin the U.S., assisted in the necropsy and says he believes that a lack of a plentiful food source and pollutants contributed to her death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biologists examine a dead orca at Bates Beach in Comox, B.C., on Dec. 6. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Port Moody

Man arrested after incident causes school lockdowns

A Coquitlam man is in police custody after an alleged assault with a weapon in Port Moody's Heritage Mountain neighbourhood led to the lockdown of six schools Tuesday morning.

Around 8:10 a.m., police said they received a report of an assault with a weapon in the Heritage Woods area.

The suspect had fled before police arrived, but officers recovered a weapon and treated a man for minor injuries.

Police placed a nearby elementary school on a code yellow lockdown as a precaution while police and a K-9 unit searched for the suspect.

The lockdown at the schools, which affected Aspenwood Elementary School, Heritage Woods Secondary School, Heritage Woods Elementary, Eagle Mountain Middle School, Pleasantside Elementary and Anmore Elementary, has since been lifted, police said.

Around 10:30 a.m., police received a report of a man who allegedly stole a woman's vehicle and the key at the top of Eagle Mountain.

The description of the suspect matched that of the man from the previous assault, according to police.

Police found the car a few moments later and arrested a 31-year-old man. THANDI FLETCHER METRO

Amazing selection. Amazing prices.

Choose from an amazing line-up of superphones at Bell. There's never been a better time to get on Canada's largest LTE network[1], now with speeds of up to 45% faster than before.[2]

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE • bell.ca

Samsung Galaxy Note 4 superphone

$199.95[3]

2-yr. Plus plan with data
$799.95 no term

Samsung Galaxy S5™ superphone

$99.95[3]

2-yr. Plus plan with data
$699.95 no term

Sony Xperia® Z3 superphone

$99.95[3]

2-yr. Plus plan with data
$699.95 no term

Samsung Galaxy Alpha™ superphone

$0[3]

2-yr. Plus plan with data
$699.95 no term

Bell holidays just got better

Get expert advice today.
Visit a Bell store near you:

ABBOTSFORD
- Sevenoaks Shopping Centre

BURNABY
- Brentwood Town Centre
- Crystal Mall
- Lougheed Town Centre
- Metropolis at Metrotown

CHILLIWACK
- Eagle Landing Shopping Centre
- Cottonwood Mall

COQUITLAM
- Coquitlam Centre

CRANBROOK
- First Pro Cranbrook

DAWSON CREEK
- 600–113th Ave.
- Dawson Mall

DELTA
- Scottsdale Centre
- Sunshine Village

FORT ST. JOHN
- 7920 Alaska Rd.
- Totem Mall

KAMLOOPS
- Aberdeen Mall
- Lansdowne Village

KELOWNA
- Dilworth Shopping Centre
- Orchard Park Shopping Centre

KERRISDALE
- 2065 West 41st Ave.

LANGLEY
- Willowbrook Corner
- Willowbrook Mall

MAPLE RIDGE
- Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
- Queensborough Landing

PENTICTON
- Peachtree Square

PITT MEADOWS
- Meadowtown Centre

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

RICHMOND
- Aberdeen Centre
- Richmond Centre
- Richmond Centre II

SURREY
- 13630–72 Ave.
- 8363–128th St.
- Central City Shopping Centre
- Clover Square Village
- Guildford Town Centre
- Panorama Village
- Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

VANCOUVER
- 1147 Robson St.
- 698 West Broadway
- 1588 West Broadway
- 1008 West Georgia St.
- 2154 West 4th Ave.
- Capilano Mall
- Lynn Valley Centre
- Oakridge Centre
- Pacific Centre
- Park Royal

VERNON
- Village Green Mall

VANCOUVER ISLAND

NANAIMO
- Country Club Centre
- Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
- 3500 Uptown Boulevard
- Hillside Centre
- Mayfair Shopping Centre
- The Bay Centre
- Tillicum Centre
- Westshore Town Centre

Also available at:

THE SOURCE I WANT THAT

Offer ends December 25, 2014. Available within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility; see bell.ca/coverage. One-time connection charge ($15) and SIM card charge ($4.95) may apply. 911 government monthly fee in NB: $0.53, NS: $0.43, P.E.I.: $0.70, AB: $0.44, SK: $0.62. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. If you end your Commitment Period early, a Cancellation Fee applies; see your Agreement for details. Subject to change without notice. (1) Based on total square kms of coverage on the shared LTE network available from Bell vs. Rogers' LTE network. See bell.ca/LTE for details. (2) Based on comparison of the shared LTE network theoretical download speeds of up to 75 Mbps (expected average download speeds 12–25 Mbps) vs. the enhanced shared LTE network theoretical download speeds of up to 110 Mbps (expected average download speeds 14–36 Mbps). Actual speeds may vary due to topography, environmental conditions, device type and other factors. (3) Available with new activations or upgrades with $80/mo. spend before tax ($60/mo. plan + $20/mo. for 500 MB data) or a $60/mo. plan if adding to an existing account. Promotional pricing may apply; visit bell.ca/rateplans for details. Samsung Galaxy S5, Galaxy Alpha and Galaxy Note 4 are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., used in Canada under license. Sony is a trademark of Sony Corporation. Xperia is a registered trademark of Sony Mobile Communications AB.

COPE apologizes for donation

$12,500. Financial agent says money came from a developer, while donor himself says he's not one

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

COPE council candidate Sid Chow Tan and mayoral candidate Meena Wong announce their plan to quell renovictions in front of a West End apartment building in October, 2014. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

The Coalition of Progressive Electors issued an apology after it was revealed the left-wing party, which promised not to accept developer donations, accepted a donation from a commercial property manager.

The apology comes two days after an intense party meeting where COPE's election campaign financial agent skewered the party for messy financial practices and for omitting $12,500 in donations from Canreal Management Corporation and its president Ray Bergen from the pre-election financial disclosures.

"COPE wholeheartedly apologizes for letting down the voters of Vancouver, our membership, and the candidates who campaigned in good faith," COPE co-chairs Tim Louis and Heather Gies wrote in a statement Tuesday.

The donation was received in October and left off the Nov. 4 disclosure list for unclear reasons that COPE is apparently investigating.

COPE voted to give the cash back on Nov. 23, yet it is broke and cannot afford to do so at the moment, according to treasurer Paul Houle.

Bergen was bemused to learn that COPE intended to give him his money back, as the party had not contacted him to tell him, he told Metro in a phone call from Hawaii.

When asked if he was a developer, he replied, "Of course not." Bergen worked on some developments in the 1990s, but his business is now one of the largest commercial property managers in B.C.

Canreal isn't involved in housing and mostly deals with warehouses. It doesn't own much property and acts predominantly as a third party, Bergen said. Bergen also works as a court-appointed receiver.

Bergen, a West Side resident tired of seeing derelict, empty homes, threw his support behind COPE because of mayoral candidate Meena Wong's advocacy for a tax on vacant housing.

"I like Meena Wong ... it's a message that resonated with me," Bergen said, adding that he met with her personally and the party's social justice policies also appealed to him.

Regardless, COPE is working on a policy on what exactly counts as a developer donation. This could be tricky in an atmosphere of infighting between the Left Front, a younger group, and party stalwarts who have been around since before a faction of the party split to form Vision Vancouver in 2005.

COPE has until Feb 13, 2015 to send Elections B.C. a full list of its campaign donations.

Unless it can find a financial agent to sign off on the party's entire financial year — Margaret Panton doesn't intend to approve spending that took place before she was hired in September — COPE faces losing its status as an electoral organization.

TODAY ONLY!

IN STORE AND AT THEBAY.COM WITH FREE ONLINE SHIPPING $99 OR MORE*.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

adidas Jackets

Save $45

$34.99

Regular $80

Women's Track Jackets

Climalite fabric pairs soft, casual comfort with quick-drying performance. Assorted colours.

Exclusively ours

Men's Fleece Jackets

Breathable Climawarm fabric keeps you warm and comfortable in cold-weather conditions. Assorted colours.

Exclusively ours

Save up to $40

$19.99

Women's tights regular $60
Men's tees regular $50

adidas

Women's Techfit Tights

Available in 3 colours.

Men's Performance Long-Sleeved Tees

Available in 4 colours.

HUDSON'S BAY

$19.99

Introducing Maud, our 2014 limited-edition Heritage Charity Bear

100% of the net proceeds support the Hudson's Bay Company Foundation.

No rain checks and no price adjustments. No pre-orders or telephone orders. Offer available while quantities last. Cannot be combined with other offers. Selection may vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices unless otherwise specified. Excludes Hudson's Bay Company Collection. See in store for details. ***FREE SHIPPING:** Receive free standard shipping on a total purchase amount of $99 or more before taxes. Offer is based on merchandise total and does not include taxes or any additional charges. Free standard shipping is applied after discounts and/or promotion code offers. Offer not valid at Hudson's Bay or any other HBC stores. Additional fees apply for Express or Next Day Shipping. Applies to Canadian delivery addresses only. Excludes furniture, canoes, patio furniture, patio accessories, barbecues and mattresses.

Drug could treat facial scarring: B.C. scientist

Study. UBC professor and his team have made a surprising discovery

An accidental scientific discovery by University of B.C. researchers has raised hopes for a miracle drug that could not only treat a medical condition that causes disfiguring facial scarring, like the musician Seal has, but could also prevent wrinkles.

David Granville, a professor in UBC's department of pathology and laboratory medicine, and his team were studying the role of a protein, Granzyme B, in causing heart attacks in mice when they made a surprising discovery.

"The mice that lacked this enzyme, their skin didn't appear to age anywhere near as much as the normal mice," Granville told Metro. "It was one of those exciting times where you have an 'aha!' moment and you just have to pursue it."

Researchers put the protein to the test, constructing a tanning bed-like device that would simulate sun exposure on mice.

Each mouse was put in a carousel that slowly turned under UV lamps, exposing the animals for three to four minutes, three times a week.

After 20 weeks, Granville said the skin of mice lacking Granzyme B had aged much less, and their collagen was also more intact compared to control groups.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Researchers at the University of B.C. are developing a drug that could treat people with discoid lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease that Seal has that causes disfiguring facial scarring. GETTY IMAGES

Home Outfitters

CELEBRATE ~~25~~ 6 DAYS OF DEALS!

AMAZING NEW DEALS EVERYDAY! DON'T MISS OUT!

THURS. ONLY! DECEMBER 18

No other discounts apply. While quantities last. No rain checks. No price adjustments on previous purchases.

Save 70%

59.99 Any Size!

Grand Hotel 1000TC sheet set

Reg. 199.99 Queen - king

100% cotton!

Save 30%

All sheet sets, open stock sheets & pillowcases

Excludes Smart Buys

Make your own sale!

Home Outfitters

Save 25% on a single regular priced item when you use your Hudson's Bay MasterCard® or Hudson's Bay Credit Card

OR Save 20% on a single regular priced item with any other tender

POS Procedure: Reason Code 6

4 51559 73000 7 Save 25%

4 51559 72000 8 Save 20%

Valid now through Wednesday, December 24, 2014. To redeem, please surrender this original coupon to the cashier. One coupon per customer; cannot be combined with any other offer or credit offer, or used in connection with any previous purchases. Licensed departments, All-Clad, Smart Buys, Saeco, Dyson, Le Creuset, Breville The Boss™ blender, Jura, Hudson's Bay Gift Cards, Point of Sale Activation Cards and Gift Registry online are excluded. Home Outfitters may dishonour and confiscate any coupon which in its sole opinion has been copied, altered, forged or obtained through unauthorized sources. This coupon has no cash value. Refunds will be reduced by the value of the coupon as indicated on the sales receipt. This coupon offer cannot be redeemed at our Liquidation Stores at Square One Mississauga, ON and Abbotsford, BC. Coupon offer valid for in-store use only. **Credit is extended by Capital One Bank (Canada Branch)**. Capital One® is a registered trademark of Capital One Financial Corporation. MasterCard and the MasterCard brand mark are registered trademarks of MasterCard International Incorporated. All marks used under licence. All rights reserved.

Canada's ***largest*** kitchen, bed and bath superstore! Sign up to receive our emails at homeoutfitters.com

IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION: SELECTION & BRANDS WILL VARY BY STORE: All colours, patterns and styles may not be available in all stores. RAIN CHECKS AND SUBSTITUTIONS: If an advertised item is not yet available we will offer you your choice of a comparable substitution, (if available), or a rain check. In some instances (e.g. special purchases, power buys, clearance items, bonus with purchase or seasonal items) quantities may be limited, selection may vary by store and substitutes or rain checks cannot be given. Home Outfitters reserves the right to limit quantities. ■ **11.2 H14** All references to regular price are to Home Outfitters' regular price product and does not include already reduced, clearance, Smart Buy, Signature Deals and items with .95 & .98 price endings unless otherwise specified. All prices in effect **Thursday, December 18, 2014**, unless otherwise specified. Valid only at Home Outfitters store locations. **Home Outfitters Outlet stores at Hwy. 401 & Weston Road, ON & New Westminster, BC may not have all offers in this advertisement. Advertisement offers not available in our Liquidation Stores at Square One Mississauga, ON & Abbotsford, BC.** Contact store for details or visit http://www.homeoutfitters. com/en/storelocator.html. Product selection may vary online. Hudson's Bay, Hudson's Bay Credit, Home Outfitters, hbc.com and their associated designs are trademarks of the Hudson's Bay Company. **Credit is extended by Capital One Bank (Canada Branch)**. Capital One® is a registered trademark of Capital One Financial Corporation. MasterCard and the MasterCard brand mark are registered trademarks of MasterCard International Incorporated. All marks used under licence. All rights reserved.

HBC HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

New rule. Food banned from Metro Vancouver trash as of Jan. 1

Throwing an apple core in the garbage on New Year's Day will make you a lawbreaker.

Metro Vancouver is reminding citizens that a bylaw banning food waste from the trash kicks in on Jan. 1, even though most apartments and condo buildings have yet to embrace the green bin composting program aimed at reducing organic material in the landfill.

But outlaws need not fear immediate repercussions for their deviant behaviour.

Metro Vancouver will wait six months to levy fines against waste haulers for dumping excess food, and even then will only focus on major waste producers such as grocery stores, major restaurants and hotels.

It will be about three years before it will enforce the food waste ban at highrise residences, said Albert Shamess, Vancouver's director of waste management.

In the interim, the City of Vancouver will work on providing outreach, support and advice to building managers and stratas on how to start composting, Shamess said.

"It's going to take time," Shamess said, pointing to the complications around space, waste hauling services, extra bins and simply convincing condo dwellers to separate their food waste.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Abbotsford

Death in park linked to huffing gas, police say

A Mission woman whose body was found in Abbotsford's Mill Lake Park last July died from huffing gas, according to police.

Six cans of compressed gas "duster" were found near the 36-year-old woman's body when she was found July 30, said Const. Ian MacDonald of Abbotsford police.

According to the coroner, she died of a fatal exposure to difluoroethane gas.

A passerby walking their dog in the area of Bevan Avenue and Emerson Street found her body during the early morning hours.

Compressed gas dusters are used to clean keyboards and electronic equipment and contained chemicals like tetrafluoroethane and difluoroethane.

Police said the gas has devastating effects on the lungs, central nervous system and brain when inhaled.

MacDonald said police felt it was important to share her cause of death as a prevention message to others.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Court

B.C. court convicts alleged Hells Angel

An alleged full-patch member of the Hells Angels has been convicted in B.C. Supreme Court of extortion and theft over $5,000.

Neil MacKenzie of B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch says the case against Robert Widdifield went to trial in the fall and a decision was handed down in Nanaimo, B.C., on Tuesday.

He says Widdifield is expected to appear back in court on Jan. 12, 2015, to set a date for sentencing.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge had stayed the charges when it ruled in June 2013 that Widdifield's charter rights were violated because the case took too long to get to trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIRELESSWAVE™

LIVE IT. SYNC IT. SHARE IT.

LUMIA 830

$0*

BONUS

*3 months **FREE** Skype Unlimited World calling*

ROGERS™ Bell fido

AT A MALL NEAR YOU | WIRELESSWAVE.CA

* Limited time offer while supplies last. Available on a new two-year term on Nokia Lumia 830 and select plans with Rogers, Fido and Bell. Offer is valid from November 7, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Offer is non-transferrable and is not redeemable for cash. Voucher comprises a three (3) month "Unlimited World" subscription and must be redeemed on or before January 31, 2015. Subscription commences on redemption date. Skype account required and subscription may only be redeemed in respect of one Skype account. Skype's Terms of Use apply. Registration on the Skype Gift app is required and must be completed before December 31, 2014. Windows Phone 8.1 is required. Offer subject to change without notice. Some conditions apply. See in-store for details. Nokia and Nokia Lumia 830 are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. © 2014 Nokia. ™Rogers & Mobius design are trademarks of or used under license from Rogers Communications Inc. or an affiliate. © 2014 Rogers Communications. ™Fido & design are trademarks of Fido Solutions ©2014.

Appeal. Guilty verdict in fatal ferry sinking upheld

Karl Lilgert, navigator of the Queen of the North. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A mariner who was in charge of a passenger ferry the night the vessel struck an island and sank off the coast of British Columbia, killing two passengers, has lost an appeal of his criminal negligence convictions.

Karl Lilgert was convicted last year of criminal negligence causing death and sentenced to four years for the March 2006 sinking of the Queen of the North. Two passengers, Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette, disappeared and were presumed drowned.

The Crown's theory at trial was that Lilgert missed a scheduled turn and sailed into a remote island because he was distracted by his ex-lover Karen Briker, who was on the bridge with him that night.

Lilgert, on the other hand, told the jury he was busy navigating the ship in difficult conditions and he didn't know why it crashed.

Lilgert's lawyer argued during the appeal that the trial judge made several errors in her instructions to the jury, particularly when she explained the offence of criminal negligence and how Lilgert's explanation should have factored into their deliberations.

But in a unanimous ruling released Tuesday, the B.C. Court of Appeal found nothing wrong with the judge's instructions and said it was obvious the jury simply did not believe Lilgert.

"The Crown presented a powerful case to answer," Justice Ian Donald wrote on behalf of the three-judge appeal panel.

"The jury must have accepted the Crown's navigational evidence and found that the appellant's account gave them no reasonable doubt about his guilt."

The trial, which was heard over several months last year, featured dramatic eyewitness accounts, expert testimony and sensational details about Lilgert's personal life.

The Queen of the North set out from Prince Rupert, on the northern B.C. coast, on a routine overnight voyage to Port Hardy on Vancouver Island with 101 passengers and crew on board.

The Crown suggested Lilgert did nothing to navigate the ship and that he wasn't paying attention because he and Briker were either arguing or possibly having sex. Prosecutors accused both of lying during their testimony.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City council

Vancouver eyes establishing ombudsperson, lobbyist registry

An independent ombudsperson and a lobbyist registry could be in Vancouver's future after a unanimous council vote on Tuesday.

In a rare show of unity, councillors from the Non-Partisan Association, Vision Vancouver and the Green Party agreed to ask staff to look into establishing tools to help residents resolve disputes with the city.

NPA Coun. George Affleck brought forward the motion requesting an ombudsperson, fulfilling an NPA campaign promise. He received full support from ruling Vision Vancouver, which requested staff report back on establishing a lobbyist registry.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Abbott Street

Street to be renamed for Pat Quinn

The chunk of Abbott Street in front of Rogers Arena is on its way to be named after beloved former Vancouver Canucks coach, player and general manager Pat Quinn.

City council passed Mayor Gregor Robertson's motion to look into renaming the roadway in Quinn's honour. Quinn passed away after a long illness in November.

Councillors outlined just how complicated it can be to rename a street. There are significant costs for businesses and residents related to address changes along with complications surrounding emergency services.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

B.C. turkey farmers don't think the recent outbreak of avian flu in B.C. will impact holiday feasts. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Turkey costs not expected to rise

Avian flu outbreak. B.C. farmers suggest that processors will likely absorb costs rather than consumers

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The current avian flu outbreak in British Columbia has wiped out about 10 per cent of the birds slated to go to market during the holidays, but B.C. Turkey Farmers don't expect costs to be passed on to customers.

Michel Benoit, general manager of the association, said farmers are still committed to making turkeys available "at every table for everyone that wants one" during the industry's busiest time of the year.

That's being done by sourcing more turkeys from farmers in Alberta and Manitoba and by rushing younger birds to market.

While some turkeys at grocers may be smaller than usual, Benoit said turkey processors would likely absorb any extra costs.

"I don't think there will be any impact on the grocery side of things.... The flyers will have already been printed and stores will continue with their seasonal sales," said Benoit.

Three turkey farms in B.C. have been depopulated because of the outbreak, and a fourth is currently located within the one-kilometre infected zone.

There are 60 other turkey farms in the province that have been unaffected, but have ramped up safety protocols to prevent the virus from hitting their farms.

"I really hope that there aren't any more," said Benoit. "It has a significant impact on affected farmers."

Ten farms have been affected by avian flu since the H5N2 strain of the disease was first identified on Dec. 1 in Chilliwack and Abbotsford.

The total number of birds destroyed is up to 233,800.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

In numbers

60

Number of turkey farms in B.C. that are unaffected by the avian flu outbreak.

Police investigate attempted attack

Police are asking two victims of an attempted bear-spray attack in downtown Victoria over the weekend to come forward and provide a statement.

Around 2:40 a.m. Saturday, officers on patrol in the 1,600-block of Quadra Street noticed a man attempt to spray a couple with what appeared to be bear spray.

Police said the man is well known to them for violence.

Police ran over and arrested the man. By the time he was in police custody, however, police said the victims had fled the area.

Officers are looking to recommend charges of assault with a weapon but still need to talk to the victims.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Police

Anyone with information about the incident or who was a victim of the assault is asked to contact Victoria police at 250-995-7654.

iPhone 5c

GET A ROCKSTAR iPHONE 5c WITH ROCKSTAR TREATMENT.

Experience red carpet movie premieres, stylish fashion events and more awesome benefits from day one! What does your phone get you?

virginmobile.ca/benefits

$45/mo. GOLD PLAN GETS YOU:

- **UNLIMITED** Calling on Weekends & Evenings from 5pm
- **UNLIMITED** Text & Picture Messaging across Canada & to the U.S.
- **UNLIMITED** International Text Messaging
- 300 Canada-Wide Minutes
- 300 MB of Data
- Voicemail & Call Display

Virgin mobile

IT'S BETTER TO BE A MEMBER

Order online at virginmobile.ca, call 1.855.BE.VM.VIP or stop by to say hi.

Virgin mobile · MOBILE · THE SOURCE · FUTURE SHOP · Walmart · BEST BUY · BEST BUY mobile · WIRELESSWAVE · booth wireless · WIRELESS etc... · COSTCO WHOLESALE · THE MOBILE SHOP

Limited time offer. Prices are subject to change without notice. Monthly 911 fees apply in NB (53¢), NS (43¢), PEI (70¢), SK (62¢) and QC (40¢). Canada-Wide Calling applies to calls made from Canada to a Canadian number or calls received from any number while you are inside Canada. Additional minutes are 50¢/min. Long distance charges on calls to the U.S. are 50¢/min in addition to your local per minute rate. Additional data is $5/100 MB. Unlimited Text & Picture Messaging is only valid when message is sent from Canada. Text messages sent within the U.S. or internationally, premium text messages, text alerts, messages sent with an instant messaging application and dial-up messages are not included in any plan and cost extra. One time activation fee ($15) may apply. SIM Card extra $4.99. If you end your services early, a fee will apply; see your Service Agreement for details. Taxes extra. Offer and Member Benefits subject to change/cancellation at any time without notice. Screen images simulated. Phones and some colours may not be available at all retailers. Other restrictions apply; see virginmobile.ca for details. TM and © 2014 Apple Inc. All rights reserved. The VIRGIN trademark and family of associated marks are owned by Virgin Enterprises Limited and used under license. All other trademarks are trademarks of Virgin Mobile Canada or trademarks and property of the respective owners. © 2014 Virgin Mobile.

School delays exams due to online abuse

Dalhousie University has postponed exams at its dentistry school and launched an investigation after sexually violent comments were posted on a social media site about female students at the Halifax school.

University president Richard Florizone said Tuesday that the school has a responsibility to ensure it is free of harassment and it is looking at a range of options to deal with the allegations. "People are deeply disappointed and concerned," he said following a meeting with deans at the school. "People find the language and the conversation entirely unacceptable."

The school said the comments were reportedly shared on a Facebook page, which has since been taken down. He said a complaint was brought to his attention by a student within the past week and it was being dealt with under the school's harassment policy. But Florizone said he became more involved when more information became public Monday.

Florizone said the school has postponed remaining fourth-year exams in the faculty of dentistry and will reschedule them in January, citing anxiety among students that has been caused by the Facebook page.

The university said it is talking to both those who were involved in creating the page and women who were featured on it. But Florizone said it wasn't yet clear what the consequences might be for the dentistry students who created it.

In its students' code of conduct, penalties for violating set behavioural expectations range from a warning to a suspension or expulsion.

Jackie Stevens of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax said the postings were particularly disturbing because they involved male students degrading their female peers.

She called on Dalhousie to take the incident seriously and look at the safety of students in the program while trying to increase respect for women in the faculty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They're specifically targeting certain women and they're talking about inciting sexualized violence and degradation on specific women."

Jackie Stevens of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

Yannick Gagne stands in the new Musi-Café under construction in Lac-Mégantic, Que., on June 11. The restaurant-bar that was hit at ground zero of the deadly train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people in July 2013 is back in business. The Musi-Café quietly opened its doors to the public Monday in a new location, about 400 metres from the original site. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Closure.' Give mom Silver Cross for her son: Petition

The mother of a Canadian soldier who was sent a one-penny government cheque after her son killed himself following a tour of duty in Afghanistan deserves a Memorial Cross, supporters say in a new petition.

They say it is unfair for military authorities to refuse to award Denise Stark the medal — often called the Silver Cross — for what they see as the service-related loss of Cpl. Justin Stark, 22, who was a reserve soldier who served seven months in Afghanistan.

In October 2011, 10 months after his return to Canada, he killed himself at the John Weir Foote Armouries in Hamilton.

"It would be a sense of a closure, which we don't have, knowing that Justin's service would be recognized — a recognition that I feel is long overdue," Stark told The Canadian Press Tuesday.

"It's time for the government to step up and just do the right thing."

The petition calls on government officials, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to intervene in what they call the "gross injustices" perpetrated on the family.

A board of inquiry concluded in March that his tour in Afghanistan did not cause post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which contributed to his suicide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Collars. No lasting harm for captured polar bears: Study

A new study says shooting polar bears with tranquillizer darts, handling them and leaving them with radio collars doesn't do any lasting harm — even if a bear is captured as many as 10 times.

Despite long-standing concerns from many Inuit and some scientists about the effect on the bears, the U.S. Geological Survey study concluded the animals can move normally within five days.

"These shorter-term, post-capture effects do not appear to have translated into any long-term effects on body condition, reproduction or cub survival," the study concludes.

Capture studies have long been controversial in the North, and the question has grown in urgency as climate change increases pressure to understand what's happening to polar bear populations.

The study uses data collected from the South Beaufort Sea population, which Canada and the U.S. share. It drew its conclusions from the results of 3,800 captures from 1970 to 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Better representation

Canada wants more women on money: Survey

The results of a new online survey suggest many Canadians would like to see women better represented on bank notes.

The Bank of Canada poll asked for input on how bills could best reflect the country. Responses included more gender equality and a better celebration of women. The questionnaire comes after women's groups criticized the central bank for removing the Famous Five on the $50 note in the most recent series of bills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta

Jury ends first day without a verdict

The jury at Luka Rocco Magnotta's murder trial ended its first day of deliberations without a verdict.

Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder and four other charges in the slaying of Chinese engineering student Jun Lin in May 2012.

Magnotta has pleaded not guilty by way of mental disorder and is seeking to be found not criminally responsible. Jurors will return to their deliberations Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Musi-Café reopens near old location

Lac-Mégantic. Restaurant located near the site of the Quebec train disaster is open for business once again

Workers comb through debris after a train derailed on July 9, 2013, causing explosions of railway cars carrying crude oil, killing 47 people as a result. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The restaurant-bar at ground zero of the deadly train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people in Quebec in July 2013 is back in business.

The Musi-Café quietly opened its doors to the public in Lac-Mégantic on Monday, about 400 metres from the original site.

Owner Yannick Gagne said only three of his original employees have returned to work with him at his new establishment.

"One of them is my chef, a friend," he told The Canadian Press in a phone interview.

"I have a girl who worked for me for three or four years — she's coming back — and one of my good friends, Karine Blanchette, will handle all the artists who will come here."

At the time of the disaster, Blanchette told reporters two children were left orphans after one of her friends died in the tragedy.

Many of the 47 victims were inside the Musi-Café when a runaway oil-tanker train rolled off the tracks and exploded in the heart of the town.

Gagne lost three workers in the blast and about a dozen have decided not to come back to work with him.

He now has a staff of about 20, which is five more employees than before.

Gagne also said that on Monday, not a lot of people showed up during the morning and that there was also a small crowd at lunch.

He added he believes the locals probably assumed the new place would be crowded.

Gagne, who had financing problems in the past, said the new restaurant-bar will cost $1.5 million when all the bills are finally paid.

But he is getting financial help.

"We have had confirmation that the federal government will be there to help us," he said.

"The provincial government has provided a loan, a financial bridge (and) we'll be able to finish the project and pay everybody."

Gagne is planning an official "red carpet and champagne" opening in February. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amnesty International director general Alex Neve addresses a news conference earlier this month on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amnesty slams feds

Under fire. Harper government criticized for putting economy above human rights

Amnesty International's Canada branch has issued a wide-ranging attack on the Harper government for making economic development a higher priority than human rights — especially in resource development.

Alex Neve, Amnesty's director general, said the organization wants human rights issues to be on the agenda for the federal election in 2015.

Amnesty is accusing the government of doing too little to ensure that the rights of aboriginal people are adequately protected in the hundreds of major resource projects that are planned for the next decade. A spokeswoman for Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford said the government has gone to great lengths to consult with First Nations on resources projects.

Amnesty also said Canadian companies in the mining industry are not being held to account for human rights violations overseas.

Amnesty said the government is selectively deciding to help some Canadians in prisons overseas and not others. For example, the government has intervened on behalf of Huseyin Celil in China, Bashir Makhtal in Ethiopia and Mohamed Fahmy and Khaled al-Qazzaz in Egypt, but not Ronald Smith, who is on death row in the United States, or convicted terrorist Omar Khadr.

A spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird defended the government's record on defending human rights. "You can see it in our dedication to empowering women, including work for young girls in the maternal and child-health initiative, and our campaign to end child, early and forced marriage," Adam Hodge said in an emailed statement.

Amnesty said that while the government's signature aid initiatives are good, its focus on maternal, newborn and child health and early forced marriage in the developing world will be undermined if full reproductive rights are not included. The government has faced criticism for not funding abortion-related projects in those development initiatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maple syrup

New rules target spurious products

Mock maple syrup makers had better watch out: It's about to get a lot harder to pass off a knockoff as the bona-fide Canadian breakfast-table staple.

After more than a decade of talks, new rules are being adopted across North America to ensure consumers have a better idea of what kind of maple syrup they're buying.

The changes, which will come into effect over the next two years, will harmonize the grading system for maple syrup produced in Canada and the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robin Williams top search term in Canada

The death of a beloved actor topped Google Canada's annual list of the most popular trending search queries.

After excluding routine searches that are entered by users — most commonly for Facebook, YouTube and Google itself — Robin Williams was found to be the top trending search term of 2014 in Canada.

Soccer's World Cup was second, followed by the iPhone 6, the Winter Olympics, Ebola, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman, Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence, the late Joan Rivers, Jian Ghomeshi and the disease ALS, which went viral as the ice bucket challenge spread around the world.

After Ghomeshi, the top trending searches for Canadian people were former Toronto mayor Rob Ford, the late former finance minister Jim Flaherty, tennis star Eugenie Bouchard and Olympic bronze medallist snowboarder Mark McMorris.

Google users typically start queries with "how to" and the most common of those searches in Canada were vote, blog, purée, fundraise, Snapchat, kayak, tune, wean, moonwalk and henna. For "what is" searches, Canadians most frequently typed in ALS, Ebola, ISIS, Bitcoin, Uber, Gamergate, Alibaba, Tinder, liposarcoma and skiathlon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top events

The shootings on Parliament Hill came in seventh on the list of top Canadian searches for events, behind the World Cup, the Olympics, the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines plane in March, the Ebola outbreak, the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the Wimbledon tennis tournament.

AUTO DIRECT

ALL WHEEL DRIVE, 4X4
HOLIDAY SALE

AB10606
2012 SUZUKI SX4
AWD, automatic, power group, A/C, push start button, CD, radio & more
$15,995
$12,995
SAVE $3,000
$51 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

AB10644
2008 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
4X4, automatic, climate control, power group, sunroof, leather seats, CD & more
$93 WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $19,995

AB10502
2008 LANDROVER RANGE ROVER
Great price, low km's, sport trim, 4x4, heated leather seats, sunroof, A/C & more
$151* WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $32,995

AB10627
2011 SUBARU FORESTER
AWD, automatic, power group, A/C, CD, roof rails, heated front seats & more
$65 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $16,995

AB10479A
2008 DODGE NITRO SXT
Selectable AWD, cloth seats, power windows, A/C, folding rear seats & more
$52** WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $9,995

AB10615
2008 PONTIAC TORRENT
5-speed automatic, AWD, climate control, power group, split folding rear seats & more
$58** WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $11,995

AB10636
2011 NISSAN ROGUE S
AWD, automatic, A/C, power group, CD, radio, split folding rear seats & more
$63 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $16,995

AB10601
2013 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA
AWD, A/C, convenience package, push start button , navigation, side step & more
$84 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $22,995

AB10450
2012 SUZUKI KIZASHI SPORT
Automatic, convenience package, leather seats, sunroof, paddle shift, CD & more
$76* WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $19,995

Terms based on at 4.77%*4.99%/**6.97% OAC, with $0 down payment (subject to credit approval) over varied month terms as listed. OAC weekly payment. Documentation fee $895. DL #31151.

AUTO DIRECT
formerly RICHMOND SUZUKI

3771 NO.3 ROAD, RICHMOND
OPPOSITE YAOHAN CENTRE
1.888.904.6759
www.wcautodirect.com

Australian leaders ask how gunman with violent history remained at large

Deadly siege. Man Haron Monis was out on bail when he took 17 people hostage Monday

A girl lays flowers at a makeshift memorial Tuesday near the site where a gunman held hostages for 16 hours at a cafe in Sydney, Australia. STEVE CHRISTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horror over a deadly incident transformed into anger Tuesday as leaders of a grieving nation demanded to know how a man with a violent criminal history slipped through the cracks and ended up in the downtown Sydney café where he took 17 people hostage.

The 16-hour siege ended in a barrage of gunfire and screams early Tuesday morning when police stormed into the Lindt Chocolat Café in a desperate bid to free the hostages. Two of the hostages were killed, as was the gunman, Man Haron Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born self-styled cleric described by Australia's prime minister as a deeply disturbed person carrying out a "sick fantasy."

"How can someone who has had such a long and checkered history not be on the appropriate watch list? And how can someone like that be entirely at large in the community?" Prime Minister Tony Abbott asked at a news conference.

"These are questions we need to look at carefully and calmly and methodically. That's what we'll be doing in the days and weeks ahead."

"We are all outraged that this guy was on the street," New South Wales Premier Mike Baird said. "We need to ensure that everything is done to learn from this."

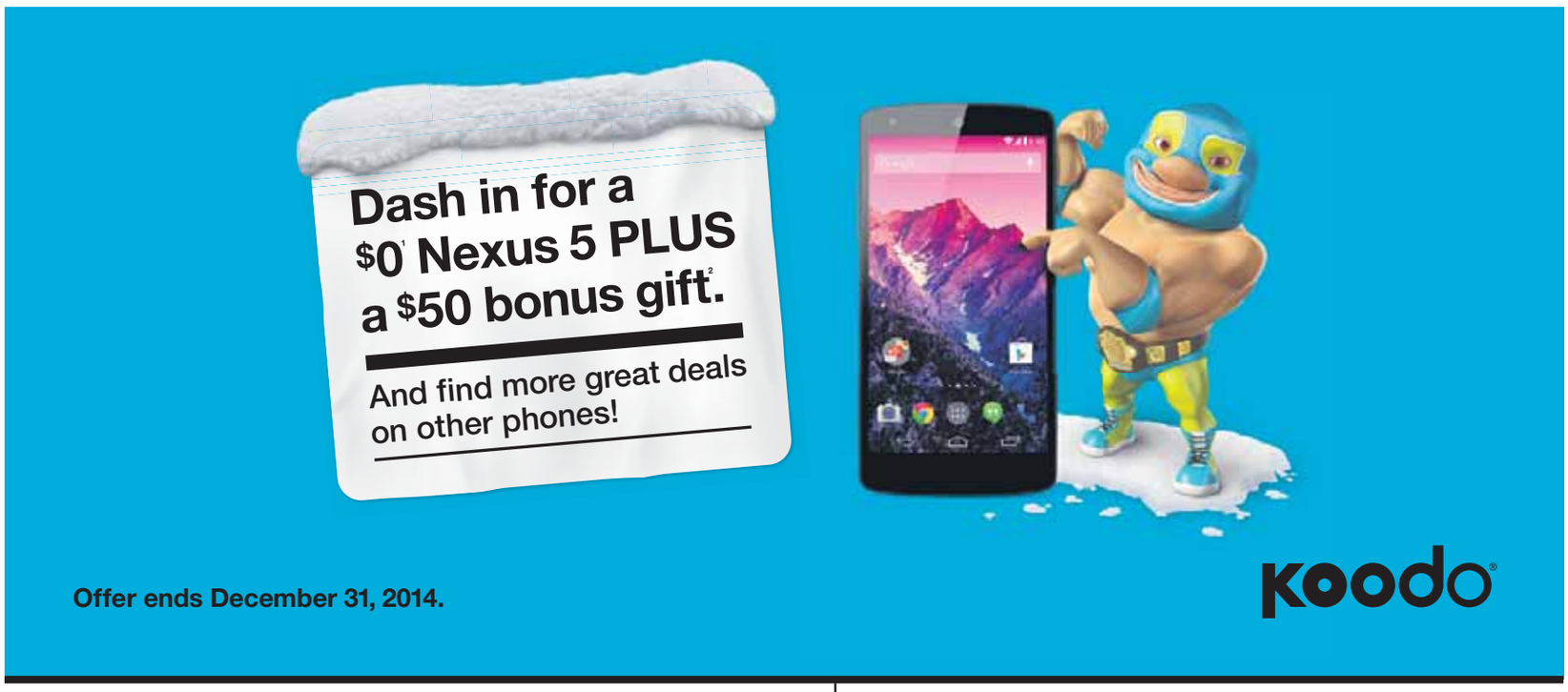
Monis was convicted and sentenced last year to 300 hours of community service for sending what a judge called "grossly offensive" letters to families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2009. He was later charged with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife. Earlier this year, he was charged with the 2002 sexual assault of a woman. He had been out on bail on all the charges.

That history prompted a flurry of questions that remained unanswered Tuesday. Why was Monis out on bail? Why was he not on a terror watch list? How did he get a shotgun in a country with tough gun ownership laws?

The siege began when Monis walked into the café during Monday morning rush hour, trapping 17 customers and staffers inside. He had some of the hostages record videos of themselves reciting his demands: to be delivered a flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and to speak directly with Abbott.

The siege ended early Tuesday with a barrage of gunfire that left two hostages — Katrina Dawson, a 38-year-old lawyer and mother of three, and Tori Johnson, the café's 34-year-old manager — and the gunman dead. Officials have yet to say whether the two hostages died in crossfire as police stormed in or were shot by their captor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BEST BUY FUTURE SHOP LONDON DRUGS THE MOBILE SHOP Walmart

(1) Price with Tab Medium. Subject to approved credit. (2) Available with new activations only. Will vary by store location. While quantities last. See store for full details.

koodo shop

Aberdeen Mall
Bay Centre
Brentwood Town Centre
Central City Shopping Centre
Coquitlam Centre
Cottonwood Mall
Guildford Town Centre
Hillside Centre
Kitsilano
Lougheed Town Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Oakridge Centre
Orchard Park Shopping Centre
Pacific Centre
Park Royal Shopping Centre
Richmond Centre
Scottsdale Centre
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
Woodgrove Centre

DREAMING OF DELHI?
Introducing flights to Delhi aboard our 787 Dreamliner.
Starting November 2015.
We are pleased to announce an addition to our network of over 180 worldwide destinations, with new service to Delhi starting November 2015 aboard our Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. This is in addition to our recently announced flights to Dubai.
Fly in the utmost comfort with Air Canada's award-winning, three-cabin service, including the next generation lie-flat seat in International Business Class, a Premium Economy cabin, and enhanced seatback In-Flight Entertainment system available at every seat throughout the aircraft.
Book now at aircanada.com or call your travel agent.
AIR CANADA Your world awaits.
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER
WINNER
SKYTRAX
Best Airline in North America
five years in a row

Cafe siege a 'sick fantasy': Aussie PM

Horror over a deadly siege transformed into anger Tuesday as leaders of a grieving nation demanded to know how a man with a violent criminal history slipped through the cracks and ended up in the downtown Sydney cafe where he took 17 people hostage.

The 16-hour siege ended in a barrage of gunfire and screams early Tuesday morning when police stormed into the Lindt Chocolat Cafe in a desperate bid to free the hostages.

Two of the hostages were killed, as was the gunman, Man Haron Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric described by Australia's prime minister as a deeply disturbed person carrying out a "sick fantasy."

"How can someone who has had such a long and checkered history not be on the appropriate watch list? And how can someone like that be entirely at large in the community?" Prime Minister Tony Abbott asked at a news conference. "These are questions we need to look at carefully and calmly and methodically. That's what we'll be doing in the days and weeks ahead."

Monis was convicted and sentenced last year to 300 hours of community service for sending what a judge called "grossly offensive" letters to families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2009. He later was charged with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife. Earlier this year, he was charged with the 2002 sexual assault of a woman. He had been out on bail on all charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE & GIVEAWAY

TODAY'S GIVEAWAY
FREE IPAD
with the purchase of a new/used vehicle*
Only available at Richmond Subaru
Contact us for more details

BUYBACK OFFERS VALID TODAY ONLY!

2014 IMPREZA 5-DR
SALE PRICE $19,888** BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT $132**
SAVE $2,110

2014 IMPREZA 5-DR SPORT
SALE PRICE $23,498** BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT $155**
SAVE $2,500

2014 IMPREZA 5-DR LIMITED
SALE PRICE $26,498** BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT $175**
SAVE $2,500

*FREE giveaway is valid only on December 17, 2014 to qualified customers with every purchase of a new/used vehicle at Richmond Subaru. **Terms based at 5.99% OAC with $2,000 down payment over 84 month term. Tax included, $495 documentation, $595 finance fees, $125 air and tire tax. DL #31150.

RICHMOND SUBARU
3511 NO.3 ROAD, RICHMOND, BC. V6X 2B8
CALL 1.866.982.6299
www.richmondsubaru.com

Pakistani girl, who was injured in a Taliban attack in a school, is rushed to a hospital on Tuesday in Peshawar, Pakistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban kills 141 at school in Pakistan

Peshawar. Deadly attack at military-run school being claimed by a group called Tehreek-e-Taliban

Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday, killing 141 people, mostly children, before Pakistani officials declared a military operation to clear the school over.

The overwhelming majority of the victims were students at the school, which instructs grades 1 through 10. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the assault and rushed to Peshawar to show his support for the victims.

As darkness fell on the area, officials said they had cleared the school of militants.

A Pakistani military spokesman, Asim Bajwa, said 141 people died in the attack — 132 children and nine staff members. He declared the operation over and said the area had been cleared. An additional 121 students and three staff members were wounded.

He said seven attackers, all wearing explosives vests, all died in the assault. It was not immediately clear if the militants were all killed by the soldiers or whether they blew themselves up, he said.

Bajwa described an assault that seemed designed purely to terrorize the children rather than take anyone hostage to further the militant group's aims.

"Their sole purpose, it seems, was to kill those innocent kids," he said.

The attack, claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban, a Pakistani militant group trying to overthrow the government, sent the wounded flooding to hospitals.

A Taliban spokesman said suicide bombers carried out the attack to avenge killings of Taliban members by Pakistan.

The scene of the attack is part of a network of schools run by the Pakistani military around the country. The student body is made up of both children of military personnel as well as civilians.

A government official, Javed Khan, said most of the students appeared to be civilians rather than children of army staff. However, analysts said the militants likely targeted the school because of its military connections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Heartbroken'

Malala Yousafzai says she is "heartbroken" over the attack on a school in Pakistan. "Innocent children in their school have no place in horror such as this," said the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

- Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed that the country would not be cowed by the violence.

This holiday season,
keep the Arctic in your heart.

The tiny Arctic town of Clyde River, Nunavut is standing up to the oil industry and the Harper government to protect the home they love from oil spills.

Send your **#ArcticLove** to Clyde River by tweeting a photo of your heart fingers wrapped around what *you* love. Because when you love something, you protect it.

For more information: **greenpeace.ca/clyderiver**

GREENPEACE

Privacy commissioner targets app policies

Data market.
Developers gather personal data more valuable than sales

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

Federal privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On Tuesday, Canada's privacy commissioner added his voice to a growing chorus asking mobile app stores to highlight how developers use data collected from customers.

Federal privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien was among 23 signatories to an open letter sent to seven app marketplaces, including Google Play and the Apple App Store. The letter urged merchants to make it mandatory for developers that sell apps in their stores to include links to their privacy policies.

"Links to privacy policies on the app marketplace appear to be optional, but we think developers that collect personal information should be required to provide a link," Therrien said in a release. "Without this information, it's difficult for individuals to provide meaningful consent."

A recent study by Therrien's office found 85 per cent of mobile apps failed to explain adequately how they collect, use and share data collected from users.

"Developers are asking for information they have no real business accessing," said Christopher Parsons, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab. "If a flashlight app is asking to read your SMS messages, that's a step too far."

According to Parsons, many app developers participate in a "grey market" of personal information.

"The value is not in selling apps," he said. "The value is in collecting information about individuals and then turning around and selling it to third parties."

Requiring developers to include privacy plans alongside their apps "is a step in the right direction," Parsons said, but many policies are written in "boilerplate legalese," meaning even if they're available, many consumers won't be able to interpret them.

"What commissioners could do is say that if you're going to develop a privacy policy ... you should be providing a simple, accessible version of what you're doing," he said.

Angry lawsuit to go ahead

Artist Juli Adams poses in her home and studio in Seattle in this Aug. 5 file photo, with one of her original drawings that a line of plush pet toys called "Angry Birds" was based on, and a copy of her licensing agreement with the Hartz Mountain Corporation. A U.S. federal judge has refused to dismiss her lawsuit, which argues Adams was cheated out of millions of dollars when the company that sold her line of Angry Birds toys reached a deal with the Finnish company that makes the insanely popular video game of the same name.
TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Google trouble

Google News Spain shuts down

Google News in Spain shut down Tuesday in reaction to a Spanish law requiring news publishers to receive payment for content even if they are willing to give it away.

The company's Spanish Google News page, normally full of aggregated news content, vanished and was replaced by a message saying Google was "incredibly sad" to announce the closure plus a lockout of Spanish publishers from its more than 70 other Google News sites around the world.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sony hack

Hackers threaten moviegoers

Hackers calling themselves Guardians of Peace made ominous threats Tuesday against movie theatres showing Sony Pictures' film The Interview, urging people to leave their homes if located near theatres showing the film.

The Interview is a comedy in which two television journalists become involved in a CIA plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palcohol. Ban considered

Powdered alcohol hasn't arrived in stores yet, but states already are moving to ban the product touted by its inventor as an easy way to mix a drink on the go.

Colorado is the latest state considering prohibiting "Palcohol" amid concern it will increase underage drinking. The product is marketed as an ounce of rum or vodka in powdered form, which is then added to water. Each serving is the equivalent of a shot of liquor, according to the company that owns Palcohol.

County Sheriffs of Colorado executive director Chris Johnson said he fears powdered alcohol will make it easier for children to "sprinkle it on top of their Wheaties for breakfast" and increase the potential for alcohol poisoning.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crowdsourcing boosts Canadian startup tech

There was $1.3 million raised for high-fidelity wireless speakers, almost $1.2 million for specialty drones and $820,000 for smart-bikes.

In 2014, three tiny Canadian companies went from teetering in obscurity to making headlines on tech blogs around the world thanks to successful crowdfunding campaigns that spurred exponential growth almost overnight.

Once the domain of hobbyists and tinkerers, crowdfunding is increasingly becoming a growth strategy for real — but still small — companies with big ideas.

Mass Fidelity, headquartered just east of Toronto, turned to Indiegogo earlier this year. The company sought about $55,000 to help get its Core wireless speaker system from the prototype stage into production.

To the Core team's astonishment, the modest crowdfunding campaign raised more than 25 times what the company was originally seeking, eventually surpassing $1.3 million.

"It literally has changed our company. We're going to accelerate our growth in a manner that we couldn't have possibly managed. We're going to be somewhere in 12 months that we were probably going to be in 36 months," said co-founder Neil D'Souza.

The second-most successful crowdfunding campaign in Canada this year was for the PlexiDrone, targeted at photographers and videographers, which raised $1.17 million after setting a goal of about $115,000.

"We could've spent $2 million on PR and marketing and we would not have gained the worldwide exposure that we have," said Klever Freire, chief executive of DreamQii, the company that created the PlexiDrone.

The third-most successful Canadian campaign was for the Vanhawks Valour smart-bike, which offers riders turn-by-turn navigation, blind spot detection technology, and digital tracking of trips. More than $820,000 was raised to get the bike into production. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.54¢ (+0.15¢)

TSX 13,861.52 (+156.38)

OIL $55.93 US (+$0.02)

GOLD $1,194.30 US (-$13.40)

Natural gas: $3.65 US (+$0.03)
Dow Jones: 17,068.87 (-111.97)

MoneyProvider.com
$500 Loan and more
Fast, easy and secure
No credit refused
1-877-776-1660
www.moneyprovider.com

EVER FOREX
BEST EXCHANGE RATES GUARANTEED!
• Money Exchange
• Worldwide Money Transfer
• 24*7 Online Trading
Live Rates: everforex.ca • Toll Free: 1 800 699 4816
LOCATIONS IN VANCOUVER, RICHMOND, BURNABY, SURREY, MARKHAM, TORONTO & WORLDWIDE

Are you:
• An Internationally Trained Professional?
• A Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident living in BC?
• Lacking affordable financial support for licensing?
we can help!
Contact us at 604.232.1100 or www.success.bc.ca/FCRloan
FCR SUCCESS Employment Services
Canada Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Pan-Canadian Innovations Initative

Snow brainer

Get the phone you want at the price you wished for.

From $0 on a 2 year Your Choice™ plan*

Switch to TELUS and experience the best customer service on Canada's most reliable 4G mobile network.**

Learn more at **telus.com/holidaysale**

TELUS
the future is friendly®

For more details, visit your TELUS store, authorized dealer or retailer, or call 1-866-264-2966.

BEST BUY · FUTURE SHOP · LONDON DRUGS · THE MOBILE SHOP · Walmart · WOW! mobile boutique

*Available for clients who activate or renew on a 2 year Your Choice plan. SIM not included. **Best customer service claim based on a comparison of national wireless service providers drawn from the most recent report of the Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services; visit the CCTS website for details. Most reliable network claim based on testing of voice-call success rates, data-session completion rates and industry-standard call-quality measures against other national wireless service providers in metropolitan areas across Canada. TELUS, the TELUS logo, the future is friendly and telus.com are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2014 TELUS.

TELUS STORES & AUTHORIZED DEALERS

Abbotsford
Highstreet Shopping Centre
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2140 Sumas Way
32915 South Fraser Way

Aldergrove
26310 Fraser Hwy.

Burnaby
Brentwood Town Centre
Crystal Mall
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
3855 Henning Dr.
4501 North Rd.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
Westwood Mall
1071 Austin Ave.

Delta
Scottsdale Centre
1517 56th St.
4841 Delta St.
4912 62nd St.

Langley
Willowbrook Mall
8700 200th St.
19638 Fraser Hwy.
20159 88th Ave.
20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
Haney Place Mall
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
Mission Smartcentre
32670 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
Lynn Valley Centre
1295 Marine Dr.
1801 Lonsdale Ave.

Pitt Meadows
19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Port Coquitlam
2020 Oxford Connector

Richmond
Lansdowne Centre
Richmond Centre
11686 Steveston Hwy.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Cloverdale Crossing
Guildford Town Centre
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
3189 King George Blvd.
7380 King George Blvd.
13734 104th Ave.

Vancouver
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
220 East 1st Ave.
551 Robson St.
808 Davie St.
991 Denman St.
1095 West Pender St.
1143 Robson St.
1855 Burrard St.
2338 Cambie St.
2372 West 4th Ave.
2706 Granville St.
2748 Rupert St.
3121 West Broadway

West Vancouver
Park Royal South

VOICES

SELFIES IN A TIME OF TRAGEDY

It's a predictable scenario: A tragic situation occurs, such as this week's hostage crisis in Sydney. Someone takes a selfie. Public outrage follows. But as Metro's Andrew Fifield writes, our discomfort with the selfie in times of trouble may have more to do with us than it does with some inherent moral failure of those who take the images

ANDREW FIFIELD
readers@metronews.ca

Events such as this week's tragedy in a Sydney café unfold in a depressingly familiar way.

Reports trickle out that something awful may be happening, but details are scarce, so we turn to social media for witnesses and those affected to fill in the gaps.

That's when the disaster selfies inevitably appear.

Some of the selfie snappers flash radiant smiles. Some of them look sufficiently solemn. All of them are criticized for making a mockery of tragedy, and that criticism is often off the mark.

Much of that criticism takes root in a misunderstanding that many, primarily older, people have about the selfie's relatively recent rise, namely that it's an inherently vain and narcissistic act.

That's absurd. Selfies are snapped for a laundry list of reasons: sharing a new shirt with friends, a wry reaction to the news, a quick self-esteem boost or a self-deprecating gag. And, yes, sometimes ego.

Whatever the reasons behind their creation, selfies have diffused into our always-changing culture. And many people are more comfortable accepting a stereotype of a self-absorbed generation with few goals outside of serial frivolity than they are with accepting that culture dares a shift without checking in with them first.

The former camp is home to the loudest voices condemning disaster selfies. If one already holds a view that selfies are little more than a self-administered ego stroke, that sticks to the image itself. The preconceived notions of the person viewing it colour the motivations of the person who took it.

Strip away the emotion and what you have are witnesses capturing an event unfolding before their eyes. By putting themselves in the frame, they're providing an index. They're documenting their lives, just as they always do — except this time, their lives overlap with a painful public event and when an information-starved media outlet picks it up, they're condemned for seeking a level of attention they never asked for.

Of course, there is a conversation to be had about taste, and rebukes aimed at more gleeful subjects are well-earned. And of course, some disaster selfie subjects may one day feel ashamed. Some of them may apologize. A few of them may even mean it.

But the instant anger and its accompanying judgment of the photographer's intention are unfair and can promote the harm critics say they're trying to prevent.

Consider this: Every autumn, a certain generation devotes a chunk of November to mourning the loss of an assassinated U.S. president. Within that chunk is much misty reminiscence about where they were, who they were with, how they reacted ... even what they were wearing. The vast majority of them were nowhere near the shots. They're inserting themselves into the event.

Sound familiar? People vividly illustrating scenes of public trauma while putting themselves in the frame? The biggest difference is they're relying on memory — the only ubiquitous documentary tool available at the time.

It's a selfie without the technology.

Are those people simply relaying their views of history, as witnessed? Or are they representative of an irreparably narcissistic generation clinging to dwindling shreds of an era when culture put them front and centre?

There could be a lot to learn by answering that question.

Mine

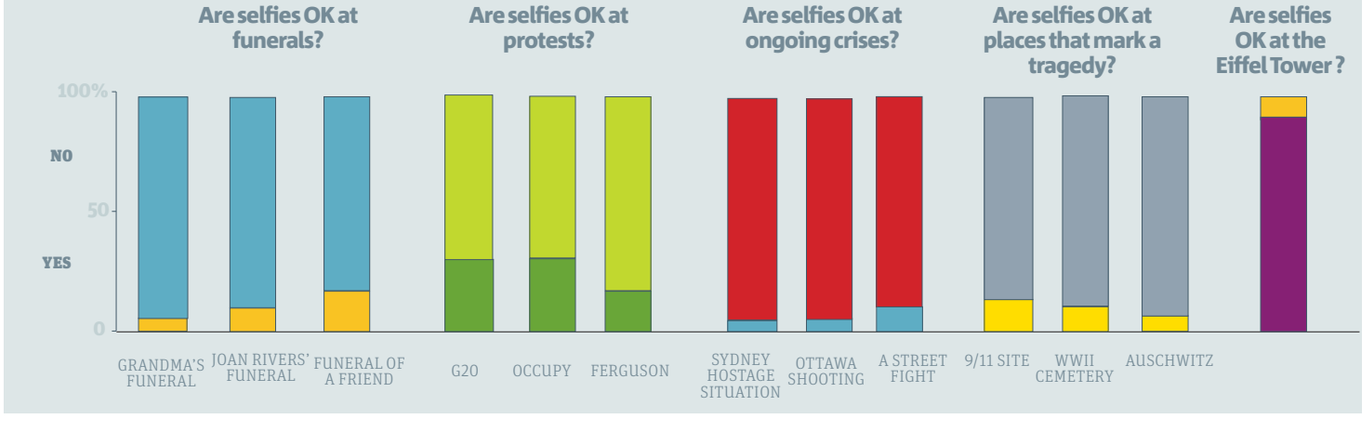
Selfie as digital stamp

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
readers@metronews.ca

This is mine. My face is in it, see? In the lawless world of the Internet, selfies might be the only way to ensure others don't take credit for your images.

Photos posted online instantly become public property, even when photographers do their best to protect them. As a newspaper editor, I have seen watermarks skilfully removed, copyrighted images intentionally and unintentionally shared, and been in arguments over who receives credit for an image. Selfies remind me of sharing my childhood dinner table with two brothers. If you wanted a specific cut of meat, you had to lick it. This was considered so gross it ended all arguments and the meat became yours. Selfies have that same kind of influence. Hate them all you want, but selfies are the new digital signature.

We asked you:



Controversial selfies

- A woman made the front page of the New York Post last year for taking a selfie with a suicidal man being rescued from the Brooklyn Bridge behind her.
- A TV news reporter was fired for asking Anderson Cooper for a selfie at the scene of the Ottawa cenotaph shooting in October.
- Not even Obama is safe. He received scorn for posing for a selfie with the Danish and U.K. PMs at Nelson Mandela's funeral.

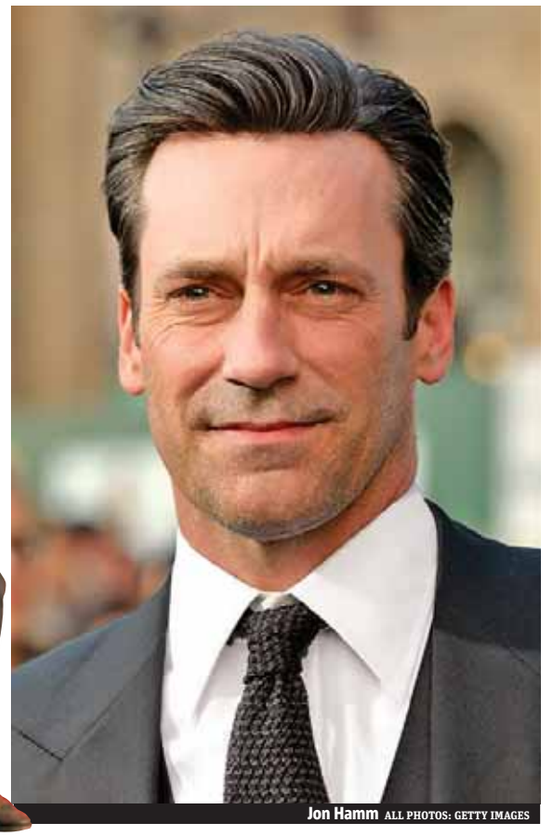
metro

Star Media Group President John Cruickshank • **Vice-President & Group Publisher, Metro Western Canada** Steve Shrout • **Vice-President & Editor-in-Chief, Metro English Canada** Cathrin Bradbury • **Deputy Editor** Fernando Carneiro • **National Deputy Editor, Digital** Quin Parker • **Managing Editor, Vancouver** Jeff Hodson • **Managing Editor, Features** Amber Shortt • **Managing Editor, Canada, World, Business** Matt LaForge • **Managing Editor, Life & Entertainment** Dean Lisk • **Sales Manager** Chris Mackie • **Distribution Manager** George Acimovic • **Vice President, Content & Sales Solutions** Tracy Day • **Vice-President, Sales** Mark Finney • **Vice-President, Finance** Phil Jameson • **METRO VANCOUVER** 375 Water Street - Suite 405 Vancouver, BC V6B 5C6 • **Telephone:** 604-602-1002 • **Fax:** 604-648-3222 • **Advertising:** 604-602-1002 • adinfovancouver@metronews.ca • **Distribution:** vancouver_distribution@metronews.ca • **News tips:** vancouver@metronews.ca • **Letters to the Editor:** vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Jon Hamm ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Mad man's no Superman: Jon snubs superhero gigs

With the glut of comic book movies coming out of the Marvel and DC universes — with extensive releases already slated through 2020 — it's kind of surprising that lantern-jawed, deep-voiced Mad Men star Jon Hamm hasn't donned some tights by now. Well, it turns out it has not been for lack of trying on the studios' parts. Hamm tells the Radio Times that he's "been in contention for quite a few" superhero films over the last few years, but has passed on them all.

"The deals that they make (actors) do are so Draconian," Hamm explains. "And of course you are signed on for not only the movie that you are signed on for … but at least two more that you haven't read and you have no idea what they are going to be and all the crossover ones you are going to have to do."

OK, fine. But now at least we can have fun speculating which roles he turned down. And no fair saying "all of them." Let's get creative here.

Amy's near-tears apology leaked by Sony staff

With more leaked emails hitting the web every day, it should come as no surprise that Sony chief Amy Pascal gathered her employees this week at the studio's Culver City, Calif. lot to address the ongoing hacking scandal.

And it also shouldn't come as a surprise that we know about the apology because someone snuck out audio of it.

"It devastates me that something I did or said in a second would hurt any one of you and for that I am profoundly sorry," a "near tears" Pascal told staffers during a pair of meetings Monday, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

At least one employee seemed mollified, telling the trade, "Amy made what sounded like a serious apology."

Amy Pascal

Fantasy franchise feminism fracas!

Looking for someone to take issue with Harry Potter star Emma Watson's UN address about feminism?

Well, Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams is happy to serve.

The 17-year-old tells the Guardian that she's impatient with such "first-world feminism" and is looking to do more.

"A lot of what Emma Watson spoke about, I just think, 'That doesn't bother me,'" Williams says.

"I know things aren't perfect for women in the U.K. and in America, but there are women in the rest of the world who have it far worse."

Your move, Hermione.

Maisie Williams

Laser Hair Removal
• 50% OFF 1st Laser Hair Removal Treatment!
(new clients only, any body area)
• Free consultations
• Services for Men & Women
Santa Loves Smooth Legs!
604-255-2737
www.ElectraLaserHairRemoval.com
ELECTRA LASER
HAIR REMOVAL & SKIN REJUVENATION EXPERTS
L12 - 955 Hornby St. Vancouver

TOURISM VANCOUVER'S
DINE OUT VANCOUVER FESTIVAL
JANUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 1, 2015
Enter to
WIN
a $100 Gift Certificate to a participating restaurant of the Dine Out Vancouver Festival
To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com
VISIT clubmetro.com TO ENTER

SCENE

Saying a last good night to the Museum tour

Movies. For Ben Stiller, The Secret of the Tomb is his last of the franchise

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Ben Stiller, centre, in Night at the Museum: The Secret of the Tomb. CONTRIBUTED

The third film in the Ben Stiller-starring Night at the Museum series, The Secret of the Tomb, has been billed as its final instalment. But given the success of the family-friendly franchise, isn't it a bit hasty to just call it like that? "I don't know. I mean, I'm pretty sure it is (the end) for me," Stiller says. "And that was one of the things going into it, by allowing it to be that, it allowed us to tell this story, which I think is my character sort of saying goodbye."

Of course, Stiller is savvy enough to know never to say never in Hollywood. "You never know these days with reboots and number fours," he jokes. "Maybe Edward Norton will show up in the next one. As the Hulk or something. It's one of those things where, I don't know, I won't say never, but it felt to me like that's what made sense to me at this time."

For the new instalment, Stiller and crew went to London's British Museum for filming, which was a treat in and of itself. "They had to be OK with what we were doing there because they'd never let anyone film there before," he says. "We didn't go to any special rooms or anything like that, but the Hall of Enlightenment there is pretty amazing. We basically got to spend a few nights there. The Rosetta Stone for me was the big thing that I was impressed with. That was our start mark — like, 'OK, let's go again, take two, back to the Rosetta Stone.' I even tweeted out a picture of me and Robin (Williams) standing next to it. Just the coolest thing ever."

And maybe this really is the end of the franchise, because Stiller has already taken home a keepsake. "I took the tablet home when we wrapped the movie. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed that something might happen," he says of the enchanted prop. "We'll see what happens, if anything comes to life in my house at night. I'm going to keep it in our little guest house. I have another cool memento from a movie, which are Tom Cruise's arms from Tropic Thunder, the Les Grossman arms? They're super-cool, these crazy, hairy arms with a crushed Diet Coke can in them. So maybe, who knows, the tablet might bring the arms to life at night."

Reality Bites turns 20

Speaking of sequels, has Stiller ever entertained the idea of revisiting the world of Reality Bites, his first film as a director that recently turned 20 years old? Well, not exactly.

- "We actually talked about possibly doing a TV series, but we didn't end up doing it," Stiller reveals.
- "I think it's probably for the best that we didn't do it, but it was an interesting idea to revisit it. I don't know if I would do a sequel to it. It would be kind of weird."

Film awards

Boyhood takes three top prizes

Richard Linklater's coming-of-age epic Boyhood has won three top prizes from the Toronto Film Critics Association, including best picture.

In addition, director Richard Linklater won best director and Golden Globe nominee Patricia Arquette won best supporting actress.

In other categories, Marion Cotillard won best actress for The Immigrant, Tom Hardy took best actor for Locke, J.K. Simmons was named best supporting actor for his spirited performance in Whiplash, and Wes Anderson's The Grand Budapest Hotel won best screenplay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boyhood CONTRIBUTED

Hobbit actors by the props they keep

Movies. Martin Freeman bagged Bilbo ears as The Hobbit trilogy wrapped

IN REVIEW
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The release of The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies brings Peter Jackson's trilogy to a close, and marks the end of a life immersed in Middle Earth for the actors. For several of the cast, it was a years-long journey, and like any trip it's nice to pick up a souvenir as a keepsake.

According to director Peter Jackson, the actor who played the exiled dwarf king Thorin stole "the most boring thing in the world to steal," from the set of the penultimate film, The Desolation of Smaug: socks.

"I did steal every single pair of costume socks," said Richard Armitage, "because we were given a brand new pair every day."

As production on The Battle of the Five Armies wrapped, Armitage was gifted with some more interesting props including the deadly goblin cleaver Orcrist, which he keeps in an umbrella stand, "'cause I want to be able to pick it up."

Martin Freeman, who plays head Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, says he doesn't miss making the films — "I'm really proud to have done it," he says, "and I'm really glad to have done it, but I rarely miss jobs" — but kept his sword and prosthetic ears as mementos.

Unlike Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen does get sentimental when he reflects on making the movies because, "a lot of the audience seeing The Hobbit Part Three wouldn't have been born when we started filming it." After spending 13 years playing wise wizard Gandalf the Grey, he took two priceless props from the set, "Gandalf's staff, which I keep with umbrellas and walking sticks, and Gandalf's hat, which I keep in the basement."

Many actors have pilfered props from their movies. Keira Knightley walked off with Elizabeth Bennet's striped socks from Pride & Prejudice. Elijah Wood has the One Ring from Lord of the Rings and Daniel Radcliffe liberated two pairs of Harry Potter's famous round glasses, even though there was a strict policy about taking props from the set.

'The ones from the first film are absolutely tiny now," he says, "but they are very sweet."

Kristen Stewart kept the engagement ring Edward Cullen gave her at the end of Twilight: Eclipse, and Zachary Quinto took the ears he wore as Spock in Star Trek: Into Darkness, but the strangest cinematic souvenir may belong to Mark Wahlberg.

The Academy Award nominee kept the prosthetic penis he wore as Dirk Diggler in Boogie Nights. "I used to keep it in my desk drawer," he said, "and I'd take it out and slap my friends in the face with it. I don't keep many things from my movies, but that just seemed to have personal significance."

Martin Freeman as head Hobbit Bilbo Baggins. CONTRIBUTED

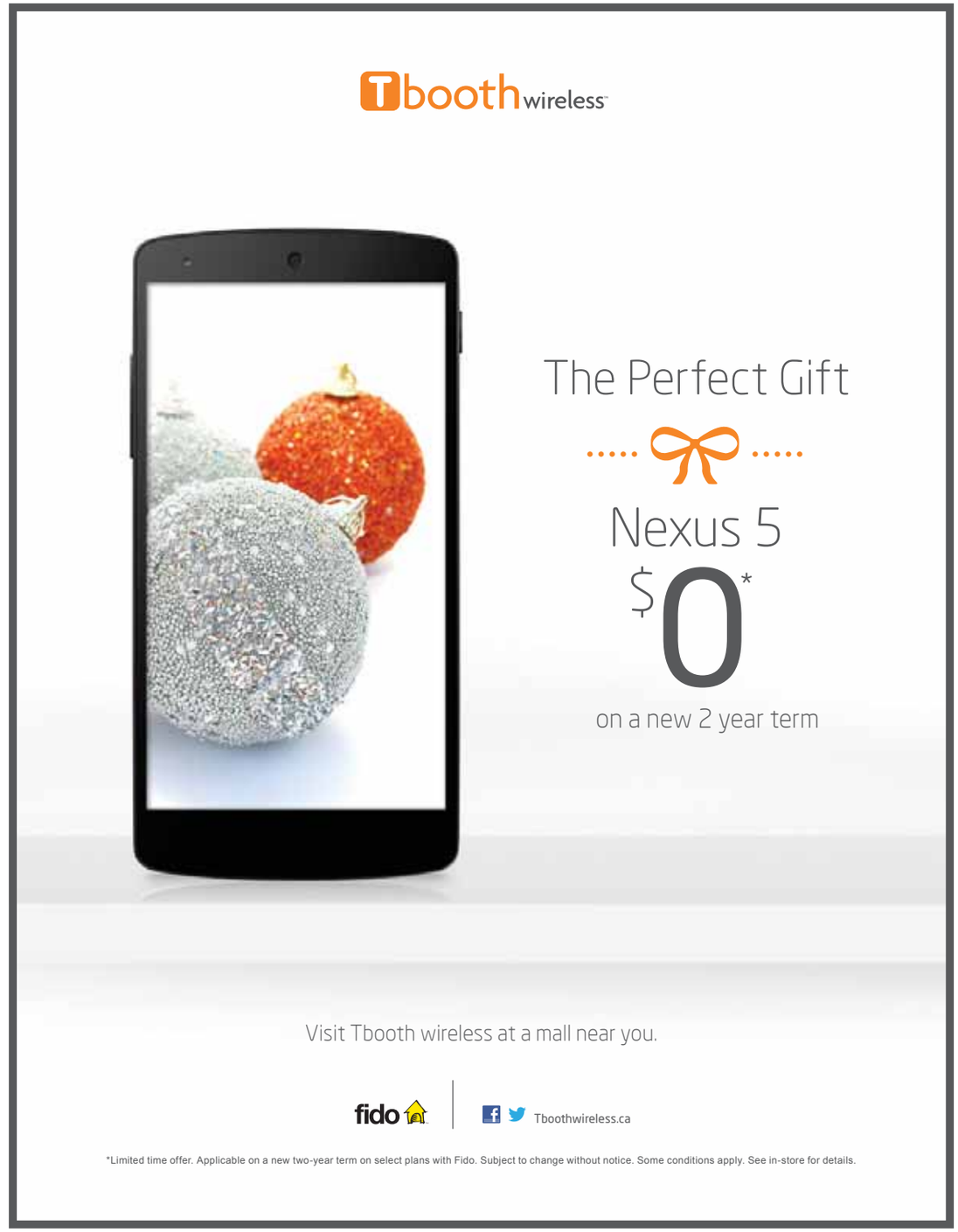
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

Director. Peter Jackson

Stars. Benedict Cumberbatch, Richard Armitage

●●●○○

Peter Jackson's wraps up the Hobbit trilogy with a cluttered film short on story, but long on action scenes. Greedy dragon Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch) is dispatched, but now an epic battle between Dwarf king Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), the Orcs and every other army in the area will decide the fate of Middle Earth. Heroes and villains abound, and while there isn't quite enough actual story to justify the two-hour-and-20-minute running time, the battle between good and evil is so primal, so elemental, you can't help but get involved in it.


Tbooth wireless
The Perfect Gift
Nexus 5
$0*
on a new 2 year term
Visit Tbooth wireless at a mall near you.
fido
Tboothwireless.ca
*Limited time offer. Applicable on a new two-year term on select plans with Fido. Subject to change without notice. Some conditions apply. See in-store for details.

Not just for spring break

Cancun. Destination offers something for foodies, volunteers and adventure-seekers

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Visit Mayan archeological sites near Cancun, such as Chichen Itza, Tulum and Coba.

Adventure-seekers can swim with whale sharks, the largest species of fish in the world.

Cancun's waters are home to part of the Mesoamerican Reef.

Cancun, which attracts more than 11 million visitors each year, is well-known for its party scene and nightlife.

But it's much more than a "spring break" destination, said Jesus Almaguer, CEO of the Cancun Convention and Visitors Bureau. Indeed, it's emerging as a destination for foodies, volunteers and adventure seekers.

"(Visitors) don't just want great beaches … they also want amazing food," he said.

It should be noted, however, that Cancun has three "Blue Flag" certified beaches, meaning they meet criteria for water quality, security and infrastructure.

The area offers four AAA Five Diamond award-winning restaurants, including Le Chique in Azul Sensatori, which recently received the award for the first time, and top eateries that focus on world cuisine and even Yucatecan fare — an ode to the destination's cultural roots.

Almaguer recommends La Habichuela Sunset for Yucatecan fare, Taco Queto in Holbox for some of the best local street food, and Las Nubes Hotel in Isla Holbox for tamarind margaritas and freshly caught ceviche. To taste Mexico's wines, head to the underground cellar in Xcaret.

Voluntourism is another big trend, and Cancun offers a variety of community programs for those who want to volunteer while on vacation. Tour operator Travel Future, for example, has several voluntour options, from making piñatas with intellectually disadvantaged youth to releasing sea turtle hatchlings into the sea.

More visitors are looking to get off the resort these days.

Did you know?

- Cancun has only been in existence since 1970.
- Cancun is a Mayan word that means "nest of serpents."
- More whale sharks gather in Cancun than any other place in the world.
- Cancun's waters are home to part of the Mesoamerican Reef, the second largest reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.
- Cancun's sand is made from crushed coral and is cool to the touch, so you won't burn your feet.

"Many visitors are now planning trips to Isla Mujeres to experience a laid-back Caribbean island or to Puerto Morelos to explore the small fishing village and taste the freshly caught seafood it is known for," Almaguer said. "Also, Isla Holbox is becoming a romantic getaway for couples who want to get away from it all and spend alone time with incredible island views."

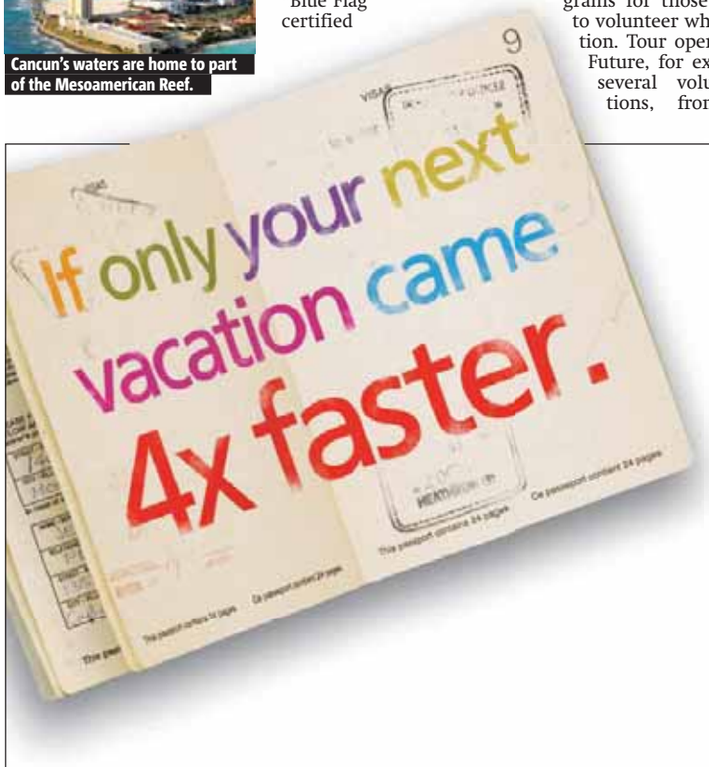
Isla Holbox is a small island about two hours north of Cancun, home to several boutique hotels (you won't find a hotel with more than 40 rooms), sand-paved roads, and a laid-back Caribbean vibe — there are no cars here, only golf carts and bikes. Holbox is also known for its calm waters (ideal for windsurfing) and the annual whale shark migration in its waters.

Adventure-seekers can swim with whale sharks, the largest species of fish in the world.

"These fish are the size of a school bus, yet are not aggressive and only feed on plankton," Almaguer said.

Cancun is becoming known as a romantic getaway for couples.

Holbox is known for its calm waters, which are ideal for windsurfing. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CANCUN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



Earn travel rewards up to 4x faster.[1]

No annual fee for the first year. Plus, get 20,000 bonus points, good for $200 in travel.[2]

With the Scotiabank®* Gold American Express® Card, you'll enjoy the freedom and flexibility to redeem points before or after your trip with no blackouts, seat restrictions or booking fees.

www.scotiabank.com/4xfaster

You're richer than you think.®*

Scotiabank®*

®* Registered trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia. ® American Express is a registered trademark of American Express. This credit card program is issued and administered by The Bank of Nova Scotia under license from American Express. [1] You will earn 4 points per $1 on the first $50,000 in purchases made annually at American Express merchants classified in the American Express network as: Gas Service Stations (with or without Ancillary Services and with Merchant Code: 5541) and Automated Fuel Dispensers (Merchant Code: 5542); Grocery Stores and Supermarkets (Merchant Code: 5411); Eating Places and Restaurants (Merchant Code: 5812), Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages) including Bars, Taverns, Nightclubs, Cocktail Lounges, and Discotheques (Merchant Code: 5813), Fast Food Restaurants (Merchant Code: 5814); Entertainment including Motion Picture Theaters (Merchant Code: 7832), Theatrical Producers (except Motion Pictures) and Ticket Agencies (Merchant Code: 7922), Bands, Orchestras and Miscellaneous Entertainers – Not Elsewhere Classified (Merchant Code: 7929). Some merchants may sell these products/services or are separate merchants who are located on the premises of these merchants, but are classified by American Express in another manner, in which case this added benefit would not apply. You will earn 1 point per $1 on purchases made after you have reached the 4 points per $1 $50,000 annual spend maximum and on all other purchases made with the card. Points are not awarded for cash advances, Scotia Credit Card Cheques, Scotia Rewards Dollars, returns, payments, casinos and gambling, annual membership or card fees, interest charges or service transaction charges. [2] The introductory annual fee waiver only applies to the initial annual fee for the primary and additional cards. The Scotiabank Gold American Express Card regular interest rate is 19.99% for purchases. For cash advances, balance transfers and Scotia Credit Card Cheques the interest rate is 21.99%. The regular annual fee is $99 per year for the first card issued on the account; additional cards are charged an annual fee of $29 per year per card when issued regardless of card activation and will be billed to your first statement and once a year thereafter. Any additional cards must be issued by February 28, 2015, to qualify for the offer. The 20,000 Scotia Rewards bonus points are awarded when you use your Scotiabank Gold American Express Card for at least $1,000 in net purchases posted to your account in the first three months from the account open date and provided the account is open and in good standing. Net purchases are defined as the cost of goods and services purchased on your credit card account, less amounts credited for refunds on such purchases. The points will appear as an adjustment on your Scotiabank Gold American Express Card statement within two statement cycles after the third billing cycle has passed. Offer applies to new accounts opened by February 28, 2015. Rates and fees are as of September 1, 2013 and are subject to change without notice.

How-to

Travelling with a purpose

1. Education, health, infrastructure, human rights — what cause is closest to your heart?
2. Research all the programs available. Decide whether to go with a well-known organization or something smaller that's just starting up.
3. Pay attention to where each group's money is going and how the local community benefits.
4. Think about how your skills and experience can best benefit your hosts. What do they need?
5. Talk to as many former volunteers as possible. What did they do? Would they do it again?
6. Be prepared to adapt — to living conditions, the weather, everything.
7. Visit CharityNavigator.org, Reliefweb.int, Idealist.org and GiveWell.org for more.

DOUG WALLACE

Deal

Cruise credit and upgrades

Silversea Cruises is offering from $500 to $1,000 of shipboard credit, plus free suite upgrades (up to a $1,800 value) for cruises to more than 30 destinations if you book by Dec. 31. This family-owned cruise company offers smaller, more nimble adventures on luxury ships that head to the Caribbean, Africa, Alaska, Australia, Asia and more. Visit Silversea.com and click on Silver Wave or call 954-687-9067.

DOUG WALLACE

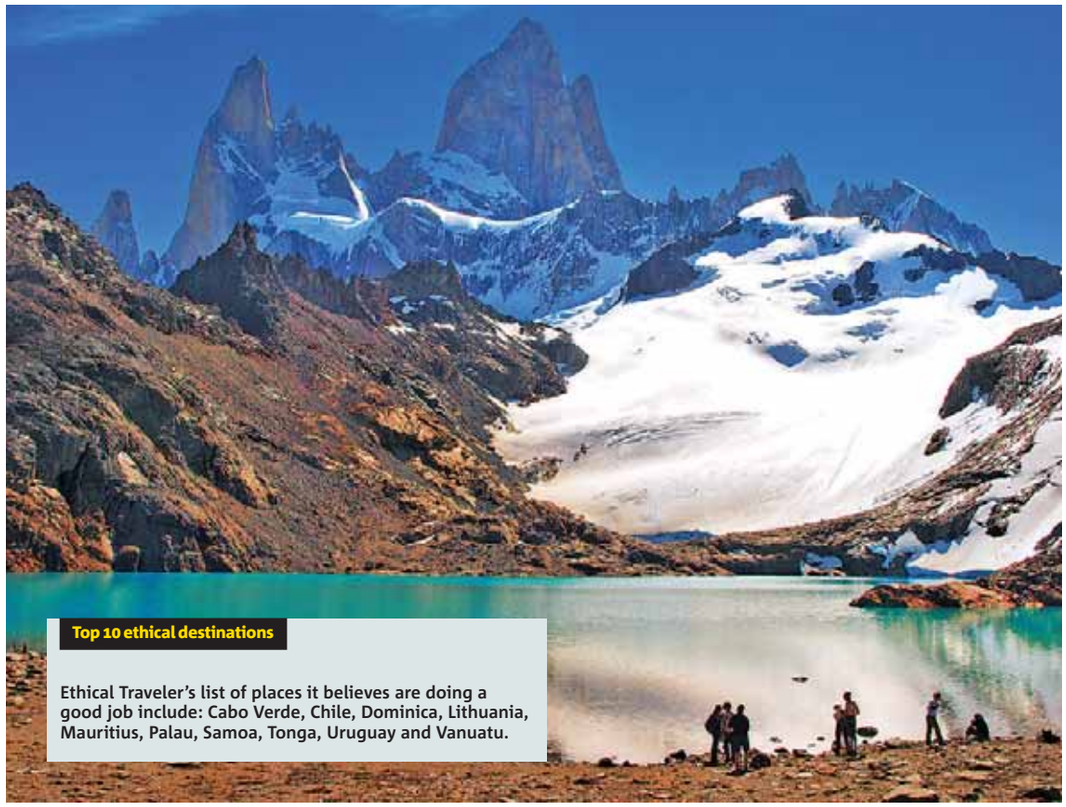
Planning

Understand your travel insurance

In the wake of the "million-dollar baby" from Saskatchewan that was born in Hawaii comes a report from the Travel Health Insurance Association. It states that more than 95 per cent of Canadians who make travel insurance claims receive the payout. The problem with the other 5 per cent is inadvertently (or deliberately) giving inaccurate health info to travel insurance providers. Get your doctor involved in your medical questionnaire to avoid the drama — not to mention the $1M. Visit thiaonline.com. DOUG WALLACE

Top spots for ethical travellers

Travellers with a social conscience are being encouraged to visit places like Chile (pictured here), Samoa, Tonga and Mauritius, destinations that have been deemed among the most ethical in the world. After reviewing the national policies and practices of developing countries, editors at Ethical Traveler selected the destinations they feel are doing the best job of promoting human rights, preserving the environment and supporting social welfare. In addition to applauding countries that are doing a solid job on all three fronts, the list also serves as a guideline for globetrotters looking to travel with a clean conscience and give them confidence that their tourism dollars are supporting economies that are on the right track. "By visiting these countries, we can use our economic leverage to reward good works and support best practices," says Ethical Traveler. This year, eight of the 10 countries are island nations, including newcomers such as Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga. Chile and Uruguay are the only mainland winners. AFP



Top 10 ethical destinations

Ethical Traveler's list of places it believes are doing a good job include: Cabo Verde, Chile, Dominica, Lithuania, Mauritius, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

AIR CANADA VACATIONS
THE PALM BEACHES
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. NON-STOP FLIGHTS FROM TORONTO, AND MONTREAL (STARTING DEC. 20)
FROM SNOWSHOES TO NO SHOES
SAVE $200 for a family of 4[1]
+ FREE SEAT SELECTION
+ FREE 3-DAY CAR RENTAL[2]
Palm Beach International Airport
DiscoverAmerica.com
DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES FLORIDA
Call 1 877 236-6228 or your travel agent
aircanadavacations.com
tico.ca
New bookings only. Subject to availability at time of booking. Subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Not applicable to group bookings. Flights operated by Air Canada or Air Canada rouge. For applicable terms and conditions, consult the Air Canada Vacations brochures or www.aircanadavacations.com. TICO registration #50013537. ■ [1]New bookings only. Valid for travel from December 1, 2014 and completed by April 30, 2015. $50 per person. [2]Valid with Air & Hotel bookings. Minimum 3-night stay required. Taxes apply. Additional conditions apply. ■ ®Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aimia Canada Inc. ®Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership, 1440 St. Catherine W., Suite 600, Montreal, QC. Visit www.aircanadavacations.com for up-to-date information.

Che's son offers revolutionary Cuban tour

The tour

La Poderosa Tours goes to lengths to emphasize its revolutionary roots. One of the guides is Camilo Sanchez — son of Cuban guerrilla Antonio Sanchez Diaz, also known as "Marcos" — a fighter killed during a 1967 battle.

The tour also includes a visit to Che's base in colonial Havana and a trip to Santa Clara, a city 270 kilometres east of Havana that was the site of a key 1958 battle.

This Che Guevara statue stands in Santa Clara, Cuba. ISTOCK

Unique travel. Hop on a Harley and write your own Motorcycle Diaries with this trip hosted by Ernesto Guevara

The youngest son of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara has opened an agency offering two-wheel tours of the Caribbean island nation on Harley-Davidsons, in a nod to his father's passion for motorcycles.

The Marxist guerrilla's storied motorbike journey through South America was immortalized in the 2004 film Motorcycle Diaries, directed by Brazil's Walter Salles and starring Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal.

The trip, spanning from December 1951 to July 1952, took the 23-year-old revolutionary through Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

The tour stops in Santa Clara, site of a key battle during the Cuban revolution. ISTOCK

Now, Ernesto Guevara wants to honour his father's famous ride by giving visitors to Cuba a unique trip through the country on Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Prices start at $3,000 US per person and go up to $5,800 US for six- or nine-day trips. Airline costs are not included.

Itineraries give visitors a glimpse of "the varied landscapes of this beautiful island," while also offering "intimate contact with a part of the history of a unique revolution," according to the website of La Poderosa Tours, run by 49-year-old Ernesto, who is also a lawyer.

The company promises a luxury visit, including stays at five-star hotels and a visit to Che's mausoleum.

"We will make your trip a unique experience, an unforgettable memoir. We will personally take care of every detail during your journey," the website says.

The company's name comes from Che's own moniker for the British Norton 500 motorbike he rode through South America with Argentine companion Alberto Granado.

That trip left a strong impression on the young guerrilla, who was preparing to graduate from medical school at the time. AFP

Che Guevara's son Ernesto Guevara. AFP FILE

7 nights All inclusive package

CATALONIA HOTELS & RESORTS

Riviera Maya	Punta Cana	Riviera Maya
$869	$1049	$1149
Catalonia Yucatan Beach Resort & Spa 4★	Catalonia Bávaro Beach, Golf & Casino Resort 4★	Catalonia Playa Maroma 4★
Jan 25, 27	Jan 30	Jan 13, 20
+ $383 txs/fees	+ $437 txs/fees	+ $383 txs/fees

Book your Sun vacation nolitours.com

Flights are from Vancouver via Air Transat. Prices shown are per person, based on double occupancy in lead room category, unless otherwise stated. Space and prices are subject to availability at time of booking. Prices advertised are valid from December 17 to 18, 2014. Taxes and fees are extra and noted above. Travel Agency fees may apply. For full descriptions and terms and conditions refer to the Nolitours 2014-2015 Sun Brochure or nolitours.com. Nolitours is a division of Transat Tours Canada Inc., and is registered as a travel wholesaler in British Columbia (Reg #2454) with offices at 555 West Hastings Street, Suite 950, Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6.

Year end wrap-up

Your travel questions answered

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

As the year comes to a close, I thought would answer some of your recent questions.

Ask resorts how many weddings they do in a day. It will give you an idea of how special your day may end up being. ISTOCK

Do you have a suggestion on a winter getaway for non-skiers?
No other Canadian city quite embraces winter like Winnipeg. Plan to visit during the Festival du Voyageur, which runs from Feb. 13 to 22, 2015. Visitors can get slap-happy at the fiddling and jigging competitions, enjoy a city-wide outdoor art gallery of snow sculptures and spend their evenings listening to a variety of music from Cajun to funk. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it is Winnipeg (not Ottawa) that is home to the world's longest skating trail. Visitors can skate, curl or even play broomball along the Red River Mutual Trail.

What should I expect from a resort when planning a destination wedding?
Typically resorts have pre-set wedding packages of varying levels and costs that include a handful of elements such as a justice of the peace, document arrangements and marriage certificate in the local language, a place for the ceremony and champagne for the toast. Do your research in advance and make sure to ask how many weddings a day your resort allows; it will give you an idea how unique your special day may end up being.

What's better for a ski holiday: condo or hotel?
A hotel room means daily cleaning service, whereas typically, condo units are not serviced. Condos come with kitchenettes, which is great if you want to do your own cooking, but if you prefer not to spend your holiday stocking the fridge and making dinner, book a hotel.

If you do go the condo route, inquire about food deliveries. Some resorts have arrangements with local grocery stores to deliver food.

It might be a little pricier than doing your own shopping, but you save money on a car rental.

Are we facing a retirement security crisis?

Many Canadians are fearful for their future

CONTRIBUTED

More than 11 million Canadians have no pension plan at work, which means they'll have to rely on their savings and public pensions when they retire. But will that be enough?

Many people simply don't earn enough to meet their day-to-day needs and put money aside for retirement. According to a CIBC report released in February 2013, 5.8 million Canadians are facing a decline in living standards of more than 20 per cent when they retire. People born in the 1980s can expect a drop of 30 per cent.

That's why public pensions are so vital to retirement security and why the labour movement has always worked to secure better pensions — from winning Old Age Security in 1952 to calling for changes to the current Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES

The labour movement includes many of the country's largest seniors and retiree organizations, such as the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC). This organization helps people plan for retirement and is a strong advocate for seniors. Find out more about CURC at **unionretiree.ca**.

In 2011, the labour movement helped secure a $300-million Guaranteed Income Supplement top-up for seniors living in poverty. Over the last five years, the labour movement has been collaborating with provincial premiers and finance ministers on a concrete plan to expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP). That plan would double future benefits in a way that's affordable for everyone.

Consensus among retirement security experts is that an expanded CPP/QPP is the best way for Canadians to save for retirement. However, the advantage for those who also have a workplace pension plan can't be underestimated; retirees with workplace pension plans have almost double the income than retirees without.

Workplaces with unions are far more likely to have employee pension plans; nearly 80 per cent of unionized employees have a pension plan at work compared to less than 30 per cent of non-unionized employees. However, in the current economy, few Canadians can count on that.

- More than 4.5 million women in the service industry have no pension plan at work.
- Only two per cent of people employed by small businesses have a pension plan.

Many small business employers want to set up pension plans but just don't have the resources to manage them. The labour movement helps set up and manage pension plans in small workplaces so that more employers can provide their workers with retirement security.

Everyone deserves to retire with dignity. To learn more about what the labour movement is doing to improve retirement security for all Canadians, go to **fairnessworks.ca**.

11 MILLION
WORKING CANADIANS
HAVE NO PENSION PLAN.
IS THAT FAIR?
The labour movement is working for retirement security. And a fairer future for all Canadians.
See how at ▾
FAIRNESS WORKS
.CA

Making your first work day work for you

Career. Have you got the new job jitters? Don't call it quitters!

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

Let's face it, whether you're starting a new job or starting your first day of school, first-day nerves can make every challenge just a little bit harder to face.

Fear of the unknown can be incredibly intimidating. Will you like the job? Will people like you? Will you make friends? What if you get lost? With a million questions running through your head, it's easy to get distracted and make mistakes.

Ready to calm your nerves and ace your first day?

Be prepared

Make sure you have all the things you will need in order to be successful. This can include your paperwork for human resources, a lunch in case you can't find something that suits your palate nearby, a pen and notebook in case you need to jump right into things — obvious and useful resources that help you manage some common curveballs.

If you aren't entirely sure what to bring on your first day, shoot an email to the hiring manager and ask. They'll probably appreciate your enthusiasm.

Knowing exactly where you are going and who you are meeting will also help. Map your route ahead of time to get to work, and leave extra time in case there are traffic or transit issues.

You may even want to do a test run of your route before the first day if you don't know how long it's going to take.

Know what to wear

This is a common hang-up when you start any new role.

If you didn't have a chance to observe the dress code when you were visiting for an interview, ask human resources beforehand.

This will help settle your anxiety about what's appropriate and ensure that you don't show up underdressed.

It's absolutely alright to overdress on your first day. Once you're more comfortable with the dress code, you can mix up your wardrobe to reflect a little more of your personal taste.

Answer the unanswered

Have questions? Get answers. Whether you need to do some research, talk to someone within the organization, or even contact the hiring manager again, don't be afraid to pursue your questions.

It's totally natural to have questions when you start a new job — and since every organization is different, there's no such thing as a stupid question. People don't expect you to know everything when you're new, so ask away.

Many questions can be answered by doing a simple Google search or spending more time on the company's website. With this approach, you'll learn more about the organization, too.

Don't forget to breathe

You interviewed for this position, or company, and you deserve a spot here.

- They would not have hired you otherwise. Remind yourself of that, and give yourself a pep talk to get through the doors on your first day.
- Remember that your first days and weeks are meant for you to learn about everything. If you go in with an open mind, and give yourself permission to learn as you go, you'll quickly find that your nerves take a back seat.

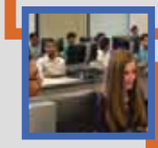
If you're as calm as a cucumber on Day One of your new job, your employers might get the impression that you aren't very interested in the role. A little nervous energy can help show you've got a positive and energetic attitude. ISTOCK

COMPLETE A CANADIAN DIPLOMA

- Hospitality & Tourism
- Health Care & Nursing
- Business Management
- Computerized Accounting
- Information Technology
- Internationally Recognized Certifications

604.273.2880 • www.uli.ca
VANCOUVER & RICHMOND CAMPUSES

EARN YOUR MASTER'S IN COMPUTER SECURITY
AT NYIT-VANCOUVER



- Study the fast-growing field of computer security at a global technology institution.
- NYIT offers BC's only graduate degree in computer security.
- Access a variety of internship and practicum opportunities.

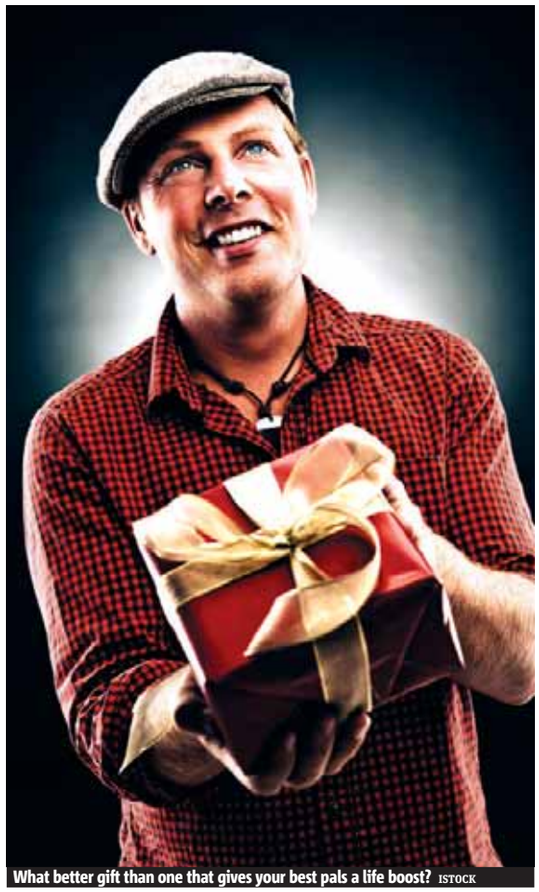
Visit: nyit.edu/canada
Call: 604.639.0942
Email: vancouverinfo@nyit.edu
701 W. Georgia St. 17th floor, Vancouver

NYIT New York Institute of Technology Vancouver

Presents for every point in the pursuit

Career. Need gift ideas for the job-seeker in your life? Consider the many stages of the hunt

MICHELLE SAMMUT
TalentEgg.ca



What better gift than one that gives your best pals a life boost? ISTOCK

Students, young professionals and life-long employees alike are building their career stories. This year, give gifts that will help them realize their potential.

The goal-setting stage

Every journey has to start somewhere, and a career path is no exception. Goal-setting can be helpful to those starting their job hunt: The technique can help guide professional aspirations and inspire tangible actions.

A great gift for someone at this stage of the job hunt would be a leather-bound notebook — perfect for pinning down goals and mapping out action plans. Look for a notebook that can easily fit into the pocket of a briefcase, handbag or backpack. Having your goals on hand can be a great reminder of all that you hope to achieve.

The networking stage

When you're looking for meaningful work, networking is a smart way to get cracking.

Informational interviews are a useful networking opportunity for anyone looking gain valuable insight into a possible career path, field or employer.

These meetings give a job-seeker an opportunity to explore different options, build professional relationships and ask career-related questions to someone working in their area of interest.

One gift idea for someone in the networking stage would be a coffee shop gift card.

Informational interviews are meant to be quick, casual meetings scheduled during the workday — a 20-minute conversation that goes well with a warm beverage.

The interview stage

Landing an interview is a major achievement, and feeling prepared for the big day can play a big part in eventual success.

A great gift idea for someone at this stage of the job hunt? A tablet.

Regardless of industry, employer or job level, making a good impression in an interview is at the top of everyone's wish list. A tablet is an innovative and memorable way to showcase who you are, what you've done and what you're capable of.

Creative job? Load your digital portfolio onto your device for easy presentation.

Results-driven industry? Use visuals (like graphs or charts) to demonstrate your achievements.

So long as the information being presented is relevant to the conversation, using a tablet can help to support your points.

The new job stage

Whether someone has been at a job for a few days or a few months, being set for success is key.

- One idea? A portable battery charger can be a much-needed confidence boost for someone who is always on the go. Relying on mobile devices is part of the modern job hunt, and with one of these on hand, you can access all the resources you need (directions, contact info, urgent emails) no matter their battery life.
- A sleek business card holder can enhance a job-seeker's personal image. Having a safe, secure place to keep business cards can help to ensure they're always prepared to network, whether at a formal event or an impromptu meeting.

VCRC Virtual Citizenship Resource Centre
FREE CITIZENSHIP HELP
CitizenshipNow.ca
1-on-1 Help, Workshops, Practice Exam, Videos, Notes, Presentations, Q&A and more
Service provided by: S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Funded by: Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Financé par : Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
Canada

TRAIN FOR AN IN-DEMAND CAREER IN HEALTHCARE
The growing healthcare industry is thirsting for well-trained, experienced professionals. Join the field while the demand is still hot! Become a:
• Dental Technician
• Registered Massage Therapist
• Physiotherapy Assistant
• And More!
Financial assistance may be available to qualified applicants. Call 1 800 360 7186 for more information.
CD college
study.cdicollege.ca
1 800 360 7186
Six campus locations across British Columbia:
Burnaby · Richmond · Surrey · South Surrey · Vancouver · Victoria
/CDICollege /CDICollege /CDICareerCollege

APPLY NOW FOR WINTER SEMESTER
Winter Semester: January 12 to April 17, 2015
Columbia College
Established 1936
- First & second year university programs for transfer to the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria and other major Canadian universities
- Associate of Arts (General, Economics, Business Administration, or Mass Communication)
- Associate of Science (General, Computer Science, or Mathematics)
- University Foundation programs (Grade 11 and 12)
- Academic English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

For further information contact
Admissions Office, COLUMBIA COLLEGE
438 Terminal Avenue, Vancouver
British Columbia V6A 0C1 Canada
Tel: 604-683-8360 Fax: 604-682-7191
Email: admin@columbiacollege.ca
Web: www.columbiacollege.ca

Dessert or host gift.

Peanut Butter Rum Balls

This recipe makes about four dozen rum balls. EMILY RICHARDS

Did you ever wonder how delicious rum balls would be with peanut butter in them?

Well, wonder no more. These have tasty peanut butter and rum for a sweet and memorable treat.

1. In a large bowl, combine icing sugar, cookie crumbs, butter, coconut, peanuts, peanut butter, sugar and rum until well blended.

2. Shape mix into 3/4-inch (2 cm) balls and roll in granulated sugar, sprinkles or chopped almonds. Place in airtight container lined with waxed paper and refrigerate. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups (625 ml) icing sugar
- 2 cups (500 ml) chocolate cookie crumbs
- 1 cup (250 ml) butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 ml) flaked coconut
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) finely chopped peanuts
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) smooth natural peanut butter
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) rum
- Granulated sugar, sprinkles and chopped almonds, to garnish

When tradition trumps trends

Christmas Shortbread.

The quintessential holiday cookie comes together quickly and can be personalized

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

I make this very simple shortbread each year and have done different things with it.

I have added vanilla extract, dried lavender, crystallized ginger, grated orange rind, coloured sugar and even dipped it in chocolate. To dip them in chocolate, for example, melt your favourite milk or dark chocolate and dip half of the cookie into the chocolate. Return the cookie to the baking sheet for the chocolate to set and then store them in the refrigerator to be sure the chocolate stays firm after setting.

No matter what I do with it, it still is a family favourite.

1. In a stand mixer or large bowl using hand mixer, beat butter until it looks white and very fluffy. Beat in icing sugar and vanilla. Beat in 1 cup (250 ml) of flour at a time until it becomes very stiff and then using hands bring the dough together and knead slightly to make smooth dough.

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) butter, very soft but not melted
- 1 cup (250 ml) icing sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract
- 4 cups (1 l) all purpose flour

This recipe makes about 5 dozen cookies (depends on size of cookie cutter you use). EMILY RICHARDS

2. Divide dough in half and roll out on floured surface to desired thickness (I like mine a bit thicker) and using your favourite cookie cutters cut out shapes and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough and continue to re-roll the dough until you use it up.

3. Bake at 375 F (190 C) for about 12 minutes or until edges are just a hint of golden brown. If you like very white baked shortbread, bake them at 350 F (180 C) for a bit longer or until they are just firm to the touch. Remove and let cool completely.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes or less

Pour the festive season in a glass

This Eggnog recipe serves 10. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the milk and vanilla bean. Bring just to a boil, then let stand off the heat for 10 minutes. Scrape the seeds from the vanilla bean into the milk and discard the pod.

2. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the egg yolks, sugar and cornstarch until light and lemon coloured, about 2 minutes. With the mixer on, slowly add about half the warm milk in a stream. Add the egg mixture to the remaining milk in the saucepan. Set the pan over moderately low heat. Stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, heat until the mixture coats a spoon when you run your finger through it and registers 160 F, 15 to 20 minutes.

3. Quickly strain the custard through a mesh strainer into a clean bowl. Stir in the cream and bourbon, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until well chilled.

4. To serve, ladle into cups and top each portion with freshly grated nutmeg.

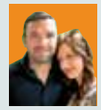
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON
AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Eggnog Ingredients

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise
- 12 large egg yolks
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 3/4 cup bourbon, brandy or rum
- Freshly grated nutmeg, to garnish

Food around the world

Cambodia (vegan rating: 7/10)



MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegontheroad.tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.

Veg: From fascinating Siem Reap in the north to lively Phnom Penh and the beaches of the south, this place has something for everyone. The national diet was decent, varied and mostly vegan friendly. Meals like Veg's stir-fry of morning glory, cauliflower, bean sprouts, cabbage and onion in a garlic soy sauce were easy to come by and up to her taste standards.

Meat: On the outskirts of Angkor Wat I decided to try the famous national dish Amok from a humble dilapidated street restaurant. It's a fish curry rich in spices and laden with coconut milk, which boasts subtle and unusual flavours. It was delicious and memorably served in a hollowed-out green coconut with white, fluffy rice as a side dish.

MLS

Rosales staying with Whitecaps

Mauro Rosales brought with him last summer valuable assets such as experience and leadership to a young, inexperienced but talented Vancouver Whitecaps squad.

The club, which acquired Rosales as a designated player in a trade with Chivas USA for Nigel Reo-Coker, will look for much of the same in 2015, too.

The Whitecaps announced Tuesday that they re-signed Rosales, the 33-year-old midfielder, to a new contract, after last week declining to pick up the option on his previous deal. Terms of the new deal were not disclosed, however, the club later confirmed it is not a designated player contract.

Rosales appeared in 11 games for Vancouver, recording three assists.

But his tireless work ethic and leadership in the midfield was a boon for a young Whitecaps team that managed to pull itself out of another mid-summer slump and into the playoffs for the second time in the franchise's MLS history.

"With me, with my personality ... always trying to be helpful, always trying to do my 100 per cent in the field," Rosales said during a conference call.

Rosales also decided to stay with the Whitecaps, rather than face an uncertain future with another club. "Everything that Vancouver gave to me in the last three months was more than what can I expect from the other teams that have offers," he said.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Canucks look to be wise with aggression

NHL. Vancouver in search of that fine line after four straight losses

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The Canucks, losers of four straight, were back on the ice for practice, something they haven't done much of in recent weeks, thanks in large part to a seven-game road trip.

How, you might ask, did this team start off its Tuesday morning session amid this losing streak? With a lighthearted 4-on-4 scrimmage.

Yes, there was the odd odd-man rush, which the Canucks were guilty of giving up with alarming frequency in Saturday's loss to the New York Rangers.

After a few laughs and a warm-up, it was down to work.

Head coach Willie Desjardins hinted a few days ago there would be some adjustments to Vancouver's system. Just some tweaks to the Canucks' aggressive style.

That's not to suggest the Canucks will become a team that sits back. They still want to be aggressive, but just smarter about it.

"When we're ready and fresh, we can play that way and we can do a really good job," said Desjardins.

"But sometimes you've got to recognize the other team is fresher than you are, they're more ready, they have a little bit more jump.

Canucks defenceman Ryan Stanton checks the Rangers' Jesper Fast on Saturday at Rogers Arena.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's just like going into the third period and you got a lead. You don't want to be quite as aggressive."

Canucks coach Willie Desjardins on the goal of giving up less odd-man rushes

"We're just trying to make our game a little bit more well-rounded. It's just like going into the third period and you got a lead. You don't want to be quite as aggressive. You don't want to back off but when you want to have something in place that you certainly don't give outnumbered rushes."

Vancouver made far too many bad decisions on when to pinch against a fast Rangers team.

"That one time, you watch the clip, and it should've been a 5-on-1 but one of their guys went and changed so it was only a 4-on-1," said Canucks defenceman Luca Sbisa.

"So that's not good. You're definitely playing too aggressive."

The Canucks, who still sit fifth in the Western Conference as of Tuesday afternoon, welcome another speedy team, the Dallas Stars, to Rogers Arena on Wednesday.

Miller's signs of discontent a bad omen

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin
winnipeg@metronews.ca

It's time to address the six-foot-two, 168-pound elephant in the room. His name is Ryan Miller, and his first season as a Vancouver Canuck has suddenly gone rather pear-shaped.

Miller's three-year, $18-million contract made GM Jim Benning look rather prudent in October, when Miller went 7-1 with a 2.27 goals-against average and .917 save percentage. November: 8-3-1, 2.52, .907. December to date: 1-3-1, 4.10, .837. Woof.

The decline in save percentage is especially worrisome. As I've said in this space before, Miller has always responded best when he sees a lot of rubber. His play actually declined when lowly Buffalo traded him to defensively sound St. Louis last year. The Canucks allow the ninth-fewest shots per game in the league, so it makes sense to see Miller struggling to find a rhythm.

But maybe the issue isn't rhythm, anyway. Maybe it's shot quality. Maybe the Dan Hamhuis-less Vancouver blueline simply allows higher-percentage chances, and the goals flying past Miller aren't his fault. The blame game, however, is where the real problem lies. Of bigger concern than his numbers: his attitude.

By the numbers

.937

The Canucks' Fenwick close save percentage with Ryan Miller on the ice, which factors in missed nets as "saves." That ranks 28th in the NHL among goalies with at least 300 minutes played this season.

If you're familiar with Miller on or off the ice, he can come across as moody. He's a thoughtful guy who answers some questions articulately and at other times can't escape a scrum fast enough. I interviewed him twice last season, once when he was a Sabre and once when he was a Blue, and it was like speaking to two identical twins with completely different personalities. It appears that up-and-down persona has spilled onto the ice as well. With the Canucks struggling of late, Miller's body language has sagged. Did you see the casual "What do you want from me?" shrug after one of the New York Rangers' five goals Saturday night in Vancouver? Even if the goals aren't Miller's fault, it's a bad omen that he's showing signs of losing faith in his teammates after less than half a season.

Even if Miller deserves more help than he's getting right now, the Canucks have to hope he can right himself mentally, as they're married to him for the foreseeable future. He's 34, worth $6 million a year and can only be dealt to five teams of his choice, per his modified no-trade clause. He's not going anywhere. And neither are the Canucks if they can't get him right.

4 SPORTS

YEAR-END PRICING CLEAROUT

NOW UNTIL JAN 2ND

GET AN ADDITIONAL $750 HOLIDAY BONUS††

TOWARDS MOST NEW 2014 / 2015 VEHICLES ($500 ON SMALL CARS)

PLUS

AS LOW AS **0%** APR*** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS

OR

UP TO **$10,000**^^^ YEAR-END TRUCK CASH ON MOST OTHER MODELS

+

COSTCO WHOLESALE ELIGIBLE COSTCO MEMBERS RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL **$1000**▲ TOWARDS MOST NEW VEHICLES

2015 FIESTA S

AVAILABLE 1.0 ECOBOOST

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN $21,514

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **$78@0.99%**** APR BI-WEEKLY FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

OR

OWN FOR ONLY **$13,739*** OFFERS INCLUDE $2,500 IN YEAR-END CASH## AND FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

2014 FUSION SE

2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+ APPLIES TO OPTIONAL FRONT CRASH PREVENTION MODELS

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN $35,699

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **$152@5.89%**** APR BI-WEEKLY FOR 72 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

OR

OWN FOR ONLY **$19,999*** OFFERS INCLUDE $4,750 IN YEAR-END CASH## AND FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

2014 ESCAPE S FWD

CANADA'S BEST-SELLING COMPACT SUV^^

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN $37,449

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **$148@5.89%**** APR BI-WEEKLY FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

OR

OWN FOR ONLY **$21,999*** OFFERS INCLUDE $4,250 IN YEAR-END CASH## AND FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

2014 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

F-SERIES CANADA'S BEST-SELLING TRUCKS FOR 48 YEARS

XLT MODEL WITH XTR PACKAGE $47,699

LEASE FOR **$299@0%**† APR MONTHLY FOR 24 MONTHS WITH $2,575 DOWN EQUIVALENT TO $138 BI-WEEKLY.

OFFER INCLUDES $5,500 IN YEAR-END CASH##, $3,700 FORD CREDIT LEASE CASH AND FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

YEAR-END PRICING CLEAROUT ENDS **JANUARY 2ND**

Visit Ford.ca to Build and Price your vehicle.

Head to your **BC Ford Store**

Drive away happy

Ford

Go Further

| bcford.ca |

SiriusXM

Available in most new Ford vehicles with 6-month pre-paid subscription

While vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment, dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers, offers only valid at participating dealers. Dealer's offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. See your local Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. Ford factory orders, as customers may gather take advantage of eligible Ford retail customer promotional incentives. Offer available at the time of order for dealer private or internet vehicle delivery, but not for use on vehicles purchased with any CPA, GPP, or Daily Rental Allowance and ADVANTAGE Plan programs. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any Fleet consumer incentives. ††Offer combined with January 2, 2015 re-view 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Escape for up to 36 months. 2014 Fiesta S Sedan 4-Door 1.6L Ti-VCT 5-Speed SelectShift Automatic (6M DCT) shown $21,514 after $750 Holiday Bonus and $2,500 Year-End Cash deducted. Purchase financing of $78 bi-weekly payment for 84 months, monthly payment is $169.00 for $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $1,588 for a total obligation of $15,327. Offer includes freight and air tax. ***0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Escape for up to 72 months, 2014 Fiesta S Sedan 4-Door 1.6L Ti-VCT 5-Speed SelectShift Automatic (6M DCT) shown $21,514 after $750 Holiday Bonus and $2,500 Year-End Cash deducted. Purchase financing of $148 bi-weekly payment for 84 months, monthly payment is $321.00 for $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $5,548 for a total obligation of $27,123. Offer includes freight and air tax. ^^Based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistics for sales report up to 2 010 and the F, C Park vehicle registration data up to August 2014. ©2014 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

2015 Toyota Camry Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize sedan
- **Engine.** 2.5-litre four-cylinder with electric motor (156 hp gas only, 200 gas/electric combined)
- **Transmission.** CVT, (continuously variable)
- **Price.** $28,410 base, $34,500 as tested

Market position

While the Prius lineup has expanded with a wagon, plug-in and subcompact models, the Camry remains focused on buyers who prefer their hybrids to look and feel more like conventional cars.

Points

- In the top XLE trim, the hybrid costs more than the gas-powered four-cylinder XLE, but slightly below the six-cylinder model.
- All trims include Bluetooth, rearview camera, dual-zone automatic climate control, automatic headlamps, and a power driver's seat.
- Selectable Eco mode reduces power and climate control to boost fuel efficiency.

The hybrid's ride is a bit rougher, and the battery eats trunk space.

Interesting features

Low-speed electric-only driving mode, standard rearview camera, available text-to-speech capabilities, blind-spot monitor, cross-traffic alert, and wireless phone charging.

Hybrid a handsome handler

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH OR CONTRIBUTED

Review. Updated styling, interior and suspension help Camry look and drive better than previous model

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Once considered so exotic that you could almost stop traffic by driving one, gas-electric hybrids are now commonplace. And while cars like Toyota's Prius still scream, "I'm a hybrid!" there are now many conventional-looking versions, including the Camry Hybrid.

Both the Camry and Camry Hybrid have been extensively updated for 2015, with new interior and exterior styling that is a considerable improvement on the previous bland design, plus tweaks to the suspension for better ride and handling.

The Camry Hybrid uses a 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that's mated to an electric motor and an automatic, continuously variable transmission (CVT) that contains belts and pulleys instead of gears.

The system seamlessly switches between gasoline-only operation, electric-only, or a combination of the two, depending on what's needed at the time.

And you don't plug it in. Instead, the battery recharges by capturing the energy generated when you're slowing down.

The roomy interior is a huge improvement over the bland 2014 model.

When you come to a stop, the gasoline engine shuts off, so you're not using fuel or creating emissions while waiting for the light to change. Don't worry: The climate control, stereo, lights, and other essentials stay on.

The Camry Hybrid comes in three trim lines, starting with the LE at $28,410 and going up to my top-line tester, the XLE, at $34,500. That's $3,710 more than the conventional four-cylinder XLE, and as with any hybrid, it will take a while to make up the difference in fuel savings. Combined ratings for the four-cylinder Camry are 8.4 L/100, while the hybrid is rated at 5.9.

Overall, the Camry's improvements are impressive: It drives better, with quicker steering response. And while the hybrid's ride is a little harsher than its gas sibling, it's still comfortable.

The interior is roomy (although the battery chews up some of the trunk space), and the XLE throws in such upscale features as navigation, heated leather seats, and a blind-spot monitor.

If you want hybrid performance with traditional looks and features, this one's a must on the test-drive list.

Compare

1 Kia Optima Hybrid
Base price: $30,095
The stylish Optima uses a conventional six-speed transmission instead of a CVT for sportier driving performance.

2 Ford Fusion Hybrid
Base price:$28,699
In its plug-in hybrid version, the Fusion's fuel use is as low as 2.7 L/100 km.

3 Honda Accord Hybrid
Base price: $31,773
A roomy, comfy model that costs more than the Camry but has better fuel efficiency.

DRIVE

Graphene, microbes and buckyballs fuel the future

Autopilot. Scientists are working overtime to find innovative and renewable alternate fuels for our vehicles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The people with big brains and lab coats are busier than ever, exploring some pretty freaky territory.

Let's take a look at three notable areas of exploration, each of which could apply to the automobile and transportation scene.

Super-thin graphene

About 10 years ago, scientists discovered a new form of carbon graphite, which they called graphene.

It is the world's thinnest known material — exactly one atom thick. It's also 200 times stronger than steel and the world's best conductor of electricity.

A recent study published in the journal Nature speculated that a membrane made of graphene could be used to isolate protons (by their nature, electrically charged) from the hydrogen available in air.

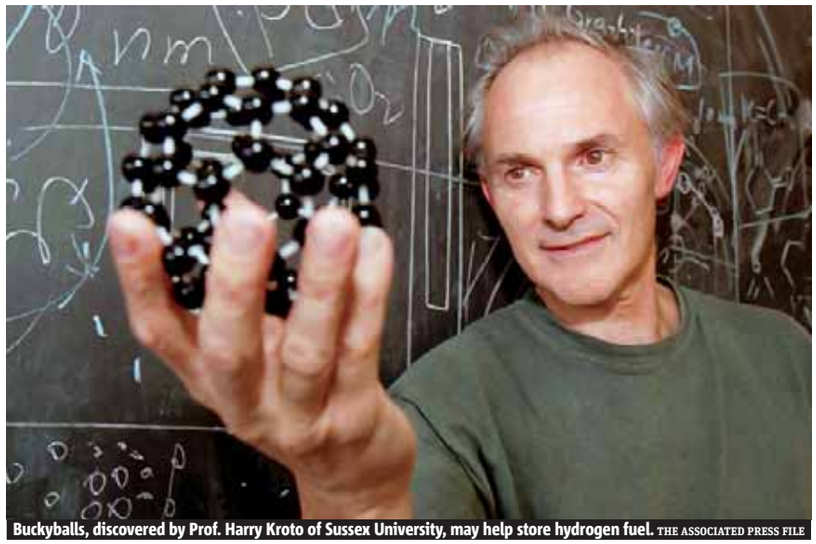
A fuel-cell vehicle could then be electrically driven, as all fuel-cell vehicles are, but without the cumbersome part of storing hydrogen on board or requiring a complex refuelling infrastructure system.

Industrious microbes

Cloning ourselves or bringing back woolly mammoths and Neanderthals are just two of the fun things we might be able to do with further advances in genome mapping and manipulation.

But George Church, one of world's top genome experts, is particularly pumped about modifying microbes to create transportation fuel.

Microbes have already demonstrated that they are able to convert wasted carbon dioxide into usable fuels, but Church wants to modify them so they are super good at it, and easily replicated, so the conversion could be done on a grand and economical scale.



Buckyballs, discovered by Prof. Harry Kroto of Sussex University, may help store hydrogen fuel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"Making new petroleum should be as simple and straightforward as brewing beer," he told The Economist Technology Quarterly.

Super-tough boron buckyballs

Buckyball is the nickname for a very interesting structure called buckminsterfullerene — a tiny molecular structure made up of 60 carbon atoms arranged in pentagons and hexagons.

It was so named because the architect, Richard Buckminster Fuller, used these shapes for his famous domes, like the one he created for Expo '67 in Montreal.

First discovered in 1985, the carbon buckyballs excited scientists, because they are hollow inside, super stable on the outside, and very tiny.

Last summer, researchers built the first ever buckyball made entirely of boron molecules.

Unlike their carbon counterparts, the boron buckyballs like to react with each other and other things.

This means they can be connected in chains and would bond with hydrogen, which had the researchers speculating they might one day be used to store hydrogen.

Hydrogen is tough to store because it is so light. It needs to be kept under pressure and condensed to be of any use as a transportation fuel, and that takes energy and a bulky infrastructure.

Here's hoping something incorporating boron buckyballs becomes the fascinating alternative — both for the triumph of science and for letting us say "boron buckyballs" out loud.

It's just more fun.

When you can drive an award-winning vehicle without using a drop of fuel, you tend to turn a few heads. When we set out to create our first-ever all-electric vehicle we made no compromises to the comfort, space or versatility of the award-winning Soul. And as it's our first, we are extremely flattered and proud that the automotive journalists at AJAC chose the all-new 2015 Soul EV as this year's *Best New City Car*. Learn more about our award-winning lineup at **Kia.ca**.

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Jaguar trademarks the name EV-Type

Jaguar may be working on an electrified vehicle destined to be called the EV-Type, suggests auto news website Motor Authority. The company recently registered the name EV-Type with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as well as in Europe. The registration was filed "for usage on motor land vehicles, among other applications." Jaguar hasn't confirmed plans for an electrified vehicle, but did come close to launching a plug-in hybrid supercar based on the C-X75 concept from 2010. Although never slated for production, Jaguar has said the concept's technology would be used in future.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Jaguar has been experimenting with the idea of an electric car since this C-X75 concept.

Portable EV charger safer than it looks

Your first impression of the Electric Vehicle Autonomous Renewable Charger (EV ARC) from Envision Solar of San Diego, Calif., is that the self-contained EV charging and energy-storage system might be prone to high winds. But it can withstand gusts up to 190 km/h, the company says, in part because of its 5,000-kilogram weight. So, although it is portable, it needs a truck to move it and sturdy hoists to load and unload it.

Charger looks like it could blow away in a wind storm, but it won't.

Shift points

- Ford is collaborating with Wind Energy Corp. to bring a new source of clean energy to four of its Dearborn, Mich. dealerships. Wind Energy will install wind sail and solar panel systems that will power buildings, EV charging stations and lot lighting.
- California governor Jerry Brown recently signed six new bills intended to encourage electric-car use through a combination of incentives and measures to make ownership easier. The legislation also grants solo drivers of plug-in electric cars access to the state's carpool lanes.

IN NOW AT YOUR BC CHEVROLET DEALERS. Chevrolet.ca 1-800-GM-DRIVE. Chevrolet is a brand of General Motors of Canada. Offers apply to the purchase or lease of a 2014 Chevrolet Equinox Freight ($1,600) and PDI included. Taxes and insurance, administration fees, dealer fees are not included. Dealer may sell for less or lease for less. Offers may change without notice and may be combined with other offers. Limited time offers may end without notice. Dealer order or trade may be required. ‡Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014, 2015 model year Chevrolet car, SUV, crossover and pickups models (except Colorado 25A) delivered in Canada between December 2, 2014 and January 2, 2015. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $1500 credit available on all 2014 Chevrolet Sonic, Cruze, Malibu, Impala, Volt, Spark, Trax, Equinox LT, Traverse LS, Captiva Sport LS, Colorado 2SA, Silverado 1500 WT, Silverado 2500HD WT, Silverado 3500HD WT; $2,000 credit available on all 2014 Chevrolet Equinox LS, Traverse 1LS, Captiva Sport 1LS, Colorado 2LA, Silverado 1500 LT, Silverado 2500HD LT, Silverado 3500HD LT; $3,000 credit available on all 2014 Chevrolet Equinox 1LT, Traverse 1LT, Captiva Sport 1LT, Colorado 2LT, Silverado 1500 LTZ, Silverado 2500HD LTZ, Silverado 3500HD LTZ, Impala LTZ, Volt, Spark EV, Corvette Stingray, Camaro, Suburban, Tahoe, Avalanche, Express, Silverado HD Crew Cab, Silverado HD Double Cab, Silverado HD Regular Cab, Silverado 1500 Crew Cab, Silverado 1500 Double Cab, Silverado 1500 Regular Cab, Silverado 1500 Hybrid, Silverado 1500 Regular Cab 4WT, Silverado 1500 Regular Cab 2WT, Silverado 1500 Regular Cab 4WD, Silverado 1500 Regular Cab 2WD

Auto fashion. Supermodel joins F1 champions as Mercedes launches AMG GT and fashion campaign

Supermodel Dree Hemingway is the new face of Mercedes-Benz, along with F1 drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg. The trio will front the Mercedes 2015 fashion campaign, which highlights the automaker's sponsorship of fashion weeks in Paris, London, Milan, Beijing, Moscow and Berlin.

Outfitted by Hugo Boss, Hemingway, Hamilton and Rosberg were shot by photographer Collier Schorr next to the Mercedes C111 and the new Mercedes-AMG GT.

The C111 is a well-known prototype developed in the 1970s, while the AMG GT is a two-person sports coupe with a new 4.0-litre V8 twin-turbo engine.

Premiered at this year's Paris auto show, the GT boasts 462 horsepower in the standard edition, while the GT S version offers up to 510 hp, enabling a top speed of 310 km/h and zero-to100-km/h acceleration of 3.8 seconds.

With the campaign, Mercedes celebrates not only its fashion sponsorship but also its F1 pilots, who led the German manufacturer to its first World Championship victory in 2014. Hamilton claimed the title, coming in just ahead of team member Rosberg.

The two drivers share the spotlight in the campaign with Hemingway, who is writer Ernest Hemingway's great-granddaughter. Since 2010, the supermodel has posed for several fashion houses, including Paco Rabanne, Jean Paul Gaultier, Chanel, Lanvin and Givenchy. AFP

Supermodel Dree Hemingway shares the Mercedes-Benz stage with F1 drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg. AFP

Video link

For a YouTube video of the Mercedes-Benz fashion shoot, go to youtube/uzKInZOQHH8

Mini's new JCW edition offers 231 hp and a top speed of 246 km/h. AFP

Debut. New Mini JCW is the most powerful ever

The new John Cooper Works edition of the Mini manages to up the power and performance without compromising on creature comforts.

The JCW edition has been a staple of the Mini lineup for more than a decade and the latest version is the most powerful production Mini ever. Its 2-litre, four-cylinder turbocharged engine offers 231 hp, a top speed of 246 km/h.

It's easy to make a small, front-wheel drive car go fast in a straight line, but the Mini has always been about go-kart-like handling, hugging bends and manoeuvrability.

Unlike a lot of hot hatchbacks, the Mini's interior hasn't been stripped back to cut weight or give a sporty feel. It does get special seats, a smaller, multi-function steering wheel and stainless steel pedals. But it also gets all of the refinements of the standard car.

The JCW will be available next spring. AFP

RECEIVE A HOLIDAY BONUS OF UP TO $1,500†
CASH PURCHASE CREDITS OF UP TO
$2,750†† ON SELECT ACURA MODELS
LEASE RATES FROM 1.9%** ON OTHER SELECT MODELS
FOR A LIMITED TIME
2015 TLX SH-AWD® STARTING FROM $39,990*
2015 MDX SH-AWD® STARTING FROM $49,990*
2015 RDX V6 AWD STARTING FROM $41,390*
DESIGNED TO DRIVE
YEAR END EVENT
ACURA
acura.ca

*Selling price is $39,990 // $41,390 // $49,990 on a new 2015 Acura TLX SH-AWD® (UB3F3FJ) // 2015 Acura RDX (TB4H3FJN) // 2015 Acura MDX (YD4H2FJN). Prices exclude $1,995 freight and PDI, fees, license, insurance, registration and taxes (including GST/HST/QST). **Lease rate on a new 2015 Acura TLX SH-AWD® (UB3F3FJ) // 2015 Acura RDX (TB4H3FJN) // 2015 Acura MDX (YD4H2FJN) is 2.9% (5.08% informational APR) // 1.9% (4% informational APR) // 1.9% lease APR for 36 months. Limited time lease offer based on a new 2015 Acura MDX (YD4H2FJN) available through Acura Financial Services, on approved credit. Representative lease example 1.9% lease rate for 36 months (78 bi-weekly payments). Bi-weekly payment is $308. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $24,024 (not applicable in Quebec). Offer includes Holiday Bonus ($1,500). Lease payment includes freight and PDI of $1,995 and applicable fees but does not include lien registration fee of up to $30, and lien registering agent fee of $5.00, which are due at time of delivery. No down-payment required. Taxes, insurance, licence and registration fees (all of which may vary by region) are extra. †$500 // $1,000 // $1,500 Holiday Bonus available on all new TLX models // new 2015 RDX models // new 2015 MDX Base (YD4H2FJN) and MDX Navi (YD4H4FKN) models and will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes and can be combined with finance or lease offers. ††$2,750 // $2,000 cash purchase credit available on all new 2015 Acura RDX models // 2015 TLX SH-AWD® models, and 2015 MDX Navi (YD4H4FKN), Tech (YD4H6FKN) and Elite (YD4H8FKN) models. Cash purchase credit will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Cash purchase credit cannot be combined with lease, finance or other offers. Some terms/conditions apply. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 2, 2015 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Visit acura.ca or your local Acura dealer for details. © 2014 Acura, a division of Honda Canada Inc.

Buggy and cosy, but fans love them

Second gear.
1998 to 2014
Volkswagen Beetle

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

When Volkswagen relaunched its much-loved Beetle in the late 1990s, the new car practically flew off dealer lots.

All units were two-door models, in either coupe or cabriolet versions. The car was updated in 2012, with revised styling, a wider, longer and lower body and a more upscale cabin.

Used-car shoppers should look for features such as a power sunroof, fog lamps, leather interior, upgraded audio, Bluetooth and automatic climate control.

Common Issues

In any used Beetle, start with a check of all power windows and door locks, the controls for each, and ensuring proper functionality of the remote keyfobs. Windows that don't work at all, or seem to be binding or straining, are likely suffering from a mechanical failure of the regulator inside the door.

Difficulty changing the temperature of the climate control system is likely caused by a failed 'blend door', which will require repair. Also confirm proper operation of the fuel door release latch.

The 2.0-L turbo may suffer from faulty coil-packs in the ignition system, which can cause rough idle, hesitation or a check-engine light. If performance isn't smooth and refined at moderate or full throttle, have the engine checked by a mechanic.

Some owners have reported issues with the DSG transmission, stemming from the computer that controls this dual-clutch gearbox.

Opting for a TDI? Poor performance, excessive noise, smoke or hesitation could be a sign of engine trouble. Ask your mechanic to check for fuel leaks, and to examine the condition of the turbocharger system, fuel pump and lift-pump.

Problems seem fairly infrequent with the 2.5-litre engine.

CONTRIBUTED

What owners like

Styling, exclusivity, a sense of community, and generous headroom thanks to the dome-shaped body. On many models, especially those with TDI engines, the fuel mileage is highly praised. Performance is strong on models with turbocharged gas engines.

What owners dislike

Typical complaints focus on a plasticky cabin on older models, a small rear seat, a sometimes-clumsy DSG gearbox, and an overly soft suspension on some models.

Engines

Beetles came with gas or diesel power and manual, automatic or direct-shift gearbox (DSG) transmissions. Many older models will pack VW's 2.5-L five-cylinder gas engine, while sportier models got the 2.0T. A four-cylinder turbodiesel engine powered TDI models.

The verdict

Keep the suggested checks in mind and ask your mechanic for a pre-purchase inspection for maximum peace of mind.

Trends. Perky and practical, crossover sales are booming around the world

SUVs and crossovers have never been in higher demand and the trend looks like it's here to stay. But what is it about cars with a utilitarian vibe that is proving so popular?

Automotive trends don't start or stop overnight. They start slowly then keep building momentum year after year. A perfect example is the SUV crossover, where demand for cars with a utilitarian look but a refined feel seems to be showing no signs of abating.

According to IHS Automotive, demand for cars that fall into the SUV segment is up 88 per cent since 2008, which makes it the fastest-growing segment around the world.

One in five new cars on the road is an SUV and, everywhere you turn, a manufacturer is offering either a new serious off-roader from the likes of Land Rover or a fun crossover such as the Fiat 500X.

The Chinese and American markets are currently driving global car sales — two regions where the SUV look has long been coveted — and therefore trends. But in Europe, too, utility vehicles grew from 8 per cent of the market to 19 per cent between 2008 and 2013.

Driving much of that demand in Europe is the Nissan Qashqai, which took just six years to achieve 2 million vehicles sold.

But when there is so much choice on the market — from people carriers and coupés to luxury sedans, why are drivers gravitating towards vehicles like the Qashqai and its growing list of competitors?

Nissan's Ian Tonkin says that, simply put, they offer owners the best of both worlds: "Modern crossovers and SUVs provide owners with enhanced space and practicality when compared to a C- or D-segment car," he says. "In addition, a high-riding driving position gives drivers a good view of the road ahead. Crossovers in particular also deliver, in some cases, greater efficiency than D-segment rivals, which is attractive to buyers."

In the U.S., the popularity of the crossover has been nothing short of remarkable.

If IHS's figures are broken down so that true SUVs and crossovers are separated, then crossovers are currently outselling SUVs and minivans combined in the U.S., second only to cars. But more traditional SUV sales are booming, too, and partly due to the fact that companies are making their latest models more comfortable, less agricultural and more fuel-efficient.

Compact crossovers like the Mitsubishi RVR are driving SUV sales to record highs around the world.

The popularity of the crossover shows no signs of abating. If anything, 2015 could go premium, with new launches from Audi, Alfa Romeo, Bentley, BMW, Jaguar, Maserati and even Lamborghini. AFP

BOXING WEEK SALE ON NOW

ONLY AT DESTINATION HYUNDAI

HURRY IN, LIMITED TIME OFFER.

2014 Accent L 4DR Manual Sedan

OWN ME FROM $5.88 A DAY

0% financing for 96 months
Includes $1,500
in price adjustments

Stock # A414461

2015 Sonata GL

OWN ME FROM $9.88 A DAY

0% financing for 96 months
Includes $1,250
in price adjustments

Stock #SO15014

2015 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD

OWN ME FROM $11.88 A DAY
SAVE $4146

Now $24,859
Includes $3835
in price adjustments

Stock #SF15090

UP TO $10,000 CASH BACK FOR CHRISTMAS!

NO PAYMENTS 'TIL MARCH 2015!

(On approved credit)

YEAR END ACCESSORIES BLOWOUT!

PERFECT STOCKING STUFFERS

YEAR END EXECUTIVE DEMONSTRATOR SALE

ALL CARS MUST GO BY DECEMBER 31ST

G15004	2015	Genesis Sedan 5.0LV8 Ultimate	Black	6989kms	Was $64,323	**Now $57,866**
SO15050	2015	Sonata 2.0T Ultimate	Silver	3358kms	Was $36,822	**Now $32,545**
SO15045	2015	Sonata Sport	White	4235kms	Was $30,422	**Now $26,604**
SO15021	2015	Sonata GLS	Silver	4285kms	Was $28,322	**Now $23,865**
SO15024	2015	Sonata GLS	White	3895kms	Was $28,322	**Now $24,415**
SO15039	2015	Sonata GLS	White	3782kms	Was $28,322	**Now $24,415**
SO15014	2015	Sonata GL	White	3958kms	Was $26,022	**Now $22,854**
SF14436	2014	Santa Fe XL Limited AWD 7 Seats	White	9158kms	Was $45,422	**Now $38,792**

Destination VANCOUVER HYUNDAI

445 Kingsway, Vancouver (Near East 12th Ave)

604.292.8188

www.DestinationHyundai.com

Dealer # 31042

ARIEL BANTOG
Sales Manager

*The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $12,959/$24,859 available on all remaining new in stock 2015 Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,795. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Accent 5 Door L 6 speed manual/2015 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96 months. Weekly payments are $33/$59. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,695. Finance offers exclude exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ☐Price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $4,635/$3,835/$7,000 available on in stock 2015 Elantra L 6-speed manual/2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/2014 Veloster Turbo 6-speed manual. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/ /2015 Sonata Sport 2.0T are $41,444/$32,694. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,795/$1,695. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ††♦☐Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have the gift of the gab and can get just about anyone to do just about anything for you. Try not to abuse the situation or you may have some uncomfortable questions to answer later.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to be too open about what you think today or you may let slip something that could be used against you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Someone will try to persuade you to part with some of your cash today. Turn them down. Just because they've had a good idea does not mean you have to finance it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You seem to be in one of your upbeat moods, but the planets warn you could be a bit too optimistic for your own good. Remember, if you start a new task you must see it through.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You won't be short of advice from loved ones today but you don't need it. You know what you need and you know where to find it, so ignore everyone else and follow your instincts.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's a long time since you have felt this good and you should make the most of it. If you have a creative talent, now is the time to get serious about it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be wary of those who offer you something for nothing. They may not want a payment for it now but it will give them lots of leverage later on when they want something from you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you have something on your mind, let others know. Yes, you may make more of it than you should but that is preferable to pretending everything is OK.

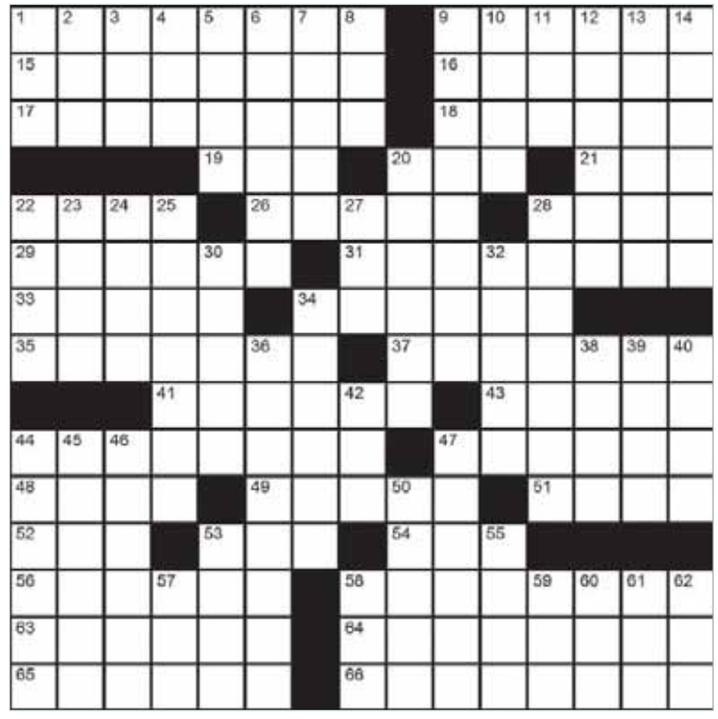
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're in a mood when the thought of failure does not enter your head and because of that you could succeed beyond your expectations — or fall flat.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
As Mercury moves into your birth sign today you are advised to put a name to your dreams. If there is something you desire now is as good a time as any to be open about it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your imaginative powers are at their height. Over the next 24 hours, don't dismiss an idea because it sounds crazy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Anyone who dares to disagree with you today is going to wish they had kept their opinions to themselves. You are in no mood for criticism, not even from those whose input you value. You know what you are doing.

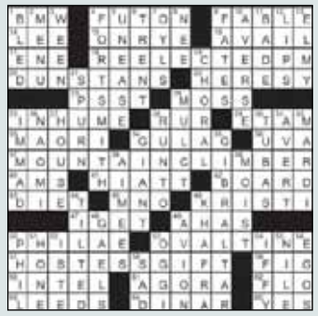
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Festival of Lights
9. Canadian boots company
15. Somewhat: 3 wds.
16. Mid-size sedan by Kia
17. Classic
18. Sportswear brand
19. Classic coat
20. Mr. Johnson
21. __ generis (Unique, in Latin)
22. Celtic language
26. The 'L' of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz author L. Frank Baum's name
28. Tricks
29. Run by the other runner again
31. Immortal flower, to a poet
33. Entrap
34. Decorative perfume bottle
35. Climbing wall plant's 'grasper'
37. Gets the snow off the walkway
41. PEI's provincial tree: 2 wds.
43. Ms. Couric
44. Giant polar bear of Inuit folklore
47. Take to be true
48. Grad
49. Mr. Welles
51. Bathroom basin
52. Natalie Cole's father
53. Christmas carol: "The Holly and the __"
54. Rug of Scandinavia
56. "Grand Canyon" Canadian band, Timber __
58. Endearing
63. Status early in a baseball inning: 2 wds.
64. Guards
65. 1998 Winter Olympics city in Japan
66. 'Historic Fort Town on the St. Lawrence River' in Ontario

Down
1. Mafia killing
2. Singer Ms. DiFranco
3. '60/'70s war zone, informally
4. Expend
5. Sort of seaweed
6. Positions oneself to say "Will you marry me?"
7. Analyze
8. Fellows
9. Saskatchewan town near the Montana border
10. Receptive
11. Sport-__ (Versatile vehicle)
12. Guitar manufacturer
13. Quantity
14. Dapper
20. Reversible patterned fabric
22. Formerly, to a poet
23. Ms. Russo
24. Bridge
25. Man's musical membrane?
27. Prefix that means 'Bad'
28. Solicit campaign votes
30. More dry
32. Chess pieces
34. Like that stuff used in baked goods
36. "That sounds marvelous, sign me up!": 3 wds.
38. Decorative case
39. Outline
40. Search
42. "A Woman's Worth" singer ...her initials-sharers
44. Town of southern Alberta
45. Vancouver-born actress Ms. Huffman
46. Eggnog ingredient
47. Unspecified individual
50. Command
53. Lady Antebellum's "_ __ to You"
55. Fine things
57. __ constrictor
58. Egyptian cobra
59. Curve
60. Prefix to 'hazard'
61. Sanction
62. Ouest's opposite

Yesterday's Crossword

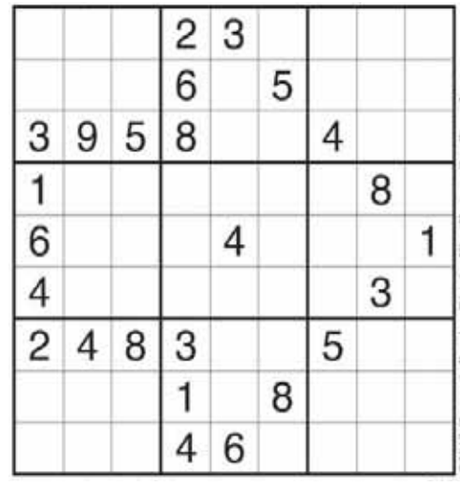


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



©2013 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	9	2	5	6	1	4	8
1	2	5	4	7	8	9	6	3
4	6	8	9	3	1	2	5	7
2	9	6	7	8	5	3	1	4
8	3	1	6	4	2	7	9	5
7	5	4	3	1	9	6	8	2
5	8	7	1	9	3	4	2	6
9	4	2	8	6	7	5	3	1
6	1	3	5	2	4	8	7	9

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE:
Neptune is suggesting that now may be the perfect time to get the Metro News App

metro
Download the Metro News App today at metronews.ca/mobile

skilled immigrant infocentre
Vancouver Public Library Central Library, Level 4
350 West Georgia Street
Phone: 604-331-3603
Web: skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca
Employment information for career decisions
A free service for immigrants to British Columbia
Vancouver Public Library
Funded by: Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Financé par : Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
WelcomeBC

HYUNDAI®

5-year Comprehensive Limited Warranty

BOXING WEEK EVENT

DECEMBER 15th TO JANUARY 2nd

GET UP TO $7,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]
Amount available on the 2015 Genesis Coupe 3.8L GT

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 96 MONTHS[†] ON SELECT MODELS

GET UP TO AN ADDITIONAL $1,250 IN BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◄] ON SELECT 2014 MODELS!

★★★★★ AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING[▲] U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating[▲]

HWY: 8.2L/100 KM
CITY: 11.4L/100 KM[▼]

Limited model shown[♦]

2014 SANTA FE SPORT 2.0T SE

$3,250 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω] + $1,250 IN ADDITONAL BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◄] = $4,500 TOTAL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

SELLING PRICE: $32,994

2014 Accent "Highest Ranked Small Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.[Δ]"

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM[▼]

GLS model shown[♦]

2014 ACCENT 4DR L

OWN IT FOR ONLY $33 WEEKLY | 0% FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS[†]

OR $1,000 IN ADDITIONAL BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ON ALL OTHER TRIMS[◄]

SELLING PRICE: $13,644

2015 BEST NEW FAMILY CAR (OVER $30,000)

AJAC www.ajac.ca

Automobile Journalists Association of Canada

HWY: 7.4L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM[▼]

Sport 2.0T model shown[♦]

THE ALL-NEW 2015 SONATA GL

OWN IT FOR ONLY $59 WEEKLY | 0% FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS[†]

SELLING PRICE: $24,444

2014 Elantra "Highest Ranked Compact Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.[Δ]"

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.7L/100 KM[▼]

Limited model shown[♦]

2015 ELANTRA L

WAS ~~$17,594~~ | NOW $12,959[‡] | INCLUDES $4,635 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]

VISIT HYUNDAICANADA.COM FOR DETAILS ON OUR ENTIRE LINE-UP!

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty[††]
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.℠
HyundaiCanada.com

®The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $12,959 available on all new 2015 Elantra L 6-speed Manual models. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual/2015 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96 months. Weekly payments are $33/$59. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,695. Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Financing example: 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual for $13,644 at 0% per annum equals $33 weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of $13,644. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $13,644. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,595. Example price excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $3,250/$4,635/$7,000 available on in stock 2014 Santa Fe Sport SE/2015 Elantra L 6-speed manual/2015 Genesis Coupe 3.8L GT. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ◄Boxing week price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Boxing week price adjustments of up to $1,250/$1,000 available on in stock 2014 Santa Fe Sport SE/2014 Accent 4-Door models. Boxing price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Elantra Limited/2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/2014 Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/2015 Sonata Limited are $27,244/$40,894/$20,394/$32,694. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,795/$1,595/$1,695. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Elantra 2.0 Limited (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T SE Limited AWD (HWY 8.2L/100KM; City 11.4L/100KM); 2014 Accent 4-Door GLS Auto (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM); 2015 Sonata 2.0T Ultimate (HWY 7.4L/100KM; City 10.4L/100KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ‡†♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.